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Dr. *L E T T S O M*'s

A C C O U N T

OF THE LATE

John Fothergill, M.D.

S O M E
A C C O U N T

O F T H E L A T E

John Fothergill, M. D.

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS,
AND FELLOW OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY,
OF LONDON;

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
IN EDINBURGH;

AND CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE ROYAL
MEDICAL SOCIETY OF PARIS,

AND OF THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
AT PHILADELPHIA.

By JOHN COAKLEY LETTSOM.

L O N D O N:

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M.DCC.LXXXIII.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

I HAVE been under the necessity of postponing the publication of Dr. FOTHERGILL's Works, some time longer than I first proposed: difficulties have arisen, which were not foreseen; and they have occasioned a delay, which could not be prevented. I have now, however, the satisfaction to observe, that the third and last volume is in such a state of forwardness, that, whatever incident might happen in my life, the completion of this Edition, as well as of the Quarto, need not be retarded thereby.

Nevertheless, as the Account of the Life of Dr. FOTHERGILL, which is to be prefixed to his Works, has been requested by many who admired his character, especially those abroad, to whom he was less personally known; I have published the same separately, as more convenient for such as do not wish to purchase the Works at large; the *Contents* of which are, however, subjoined. I have been further induced to

A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

make this prior publication, in hopes of acquiring additional communications from his distant friends, and particularly in America, with whom his correspondence was not less important than extensive: and I am the more ardently encouraged to hope for such communications, from the kind assistance I have already experienced of many respectable individuals; particularly, of *David Barclay*, of Youngsbury; *Dr. Cuming*, of Dorchester; *Joseph Cockfield*, of Upton; *Thomas Collinson*, of Southgate; *Dr. Dobson*, and *Dr. Falconar*, of Bath; *Dr. Anthony Fothergill*, of London; *Benjamin Franklin*; *Dr. Johnstone*, of Kidderminster; *John Nichols*, Printer to the Society of Antiquaries; *John Payne*, Accomptant General of the Bank of England; *Thomas Pennant*, Esq; *Dr. Percival*, of Manchester; *John Scott*, Esq; of Amwell; *Henry Smeathman*, Author of the History of the Termites; *Dr. Whitehead*, of London; and *Henry Zouch*, an eminent Clergyman and Justice of the Peace, of Sandal in Yorkshire, and of the Family of the deceased.

JOHN COAKLEY LETTSOM.

London, May 1, 1783.

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SOME ACCOUNT

OF THE LATE

JOHN FOTHERGILL, M.D. F.R.S. &c.

By JOHN COAKLEY LETTSOM.

For my own part, when I recollect what I have lost in him, the sensible, firm, and upright friend, the able, honest, and experienced physician, the pleasing instructive companion of a social hour, expression fails me.

FOTHERGILL'S LIFE OF RUSSELL.

Amisi enim, amisi vitæ meæ Testem,
Rectorem, Magistrum.

PLIN. SEQ.

SOME ACCOUNT

OF THE LATE

JOHN FOTHERGILL, M.D. F.R.S. &c.

Read before the MEDICAL SOCIETY of LONDON,
July 17, and October 23, 1782.

THOUGH the admiration which an elevated character excites, may be diminished by familiar intercourse; yet that affection which virtue begets, and that respect which mental superiority inspires, are as permanent as the causes which produced them. You, Gentlemen, who so lately enjoyed the conversation of our late President, will call to mind the dignity with which he conveyed easy communication that never tired, because it always improved; and regret, with painful recollection, that our honoured associate is no more!

But he that feels the loss of a friend to whom he owed the obligation of useful instruction, or remembers the salutary aid that renewed the vigour of health, or that generosity which averts the misery of families and individuals, naturally wishes, and wishes with ardour, to revive in the page of history, those virtues which were incessantly directed to the advantage and happiness of mankind. In attempting before you this grateful task, whilst I feel with concern how unequal my abilities are to my own wishes, or may be to your expectations, I trust to your indulgence, where biographical relation must be so inadequate to the zeal of friendship.

JOHN FOTHERGILL, the father of the deceased physician of the same name, was born in Wensleydale, in Yorkshire, in the year 1676, and was a member of the religious society now generally denominated Quakers. He resided at Carr-End, the family estate of a preceding generation, where our late President Dr. JOHN FOTHERGILL was born, on the eighth of March 1712: he was one of many children; though not
the

the only one, who in early life exhibited instances of genius and superior understanding.

His mother was the daughter of Thomas Hough, a person of fortune, who resided near Frodsham, in Cheshire, from under whose care he was placed at school in the same town, where he continued till his twelfth year, and was afterwards removed to Sedberg School, in Yorkshire, then and since famous for classical literature and mathematics. That his progress here was considerable, I may safely assert, as the late Gilbert Thompson, near Warrington, whose memory I have many motives to value, and whose learning and judgment no person who has been under his tuition can doubt, told me, that he was his school-fellow, and in the same classes, but that he never was able to rise above him, though constantly excited by emulation to obtain that superiority.

About his sixteenth year, when his school education was finished, he was placed with Benjamin Bartlett, an eminent apothecary at Bradford, in Yorkshire; who before had been the tutor of Dr. Hillary, and since of

Dr. Chorley; and whose amiable manners and exemplary conduct had conferred upon him the character of a good man, whilst his medical abilities and instructions had rendered his house the seminary of many distinguished physicians.

The youth, who was destined at a future time to become one of the first physicians of the age, soon afforded such instances of superior sagacity, as induced his intelligent master to permit him, at an early period, to visit and prescribe for his patients; and this he did with so much approbation, that his contemporaries in that neighbourhood have always spoken, in terms of respectful recollection, of his assiduity and practical success.

When his apprenticeship expired, he removed to Edinburgh, to study physic in the colleges of medicine, prior to his settling in the country as an apothecary, in which capacity he was originally designed to act. At this time the professorial chairs were filled with the Doctors Monro, Alston, Rutherford, Sinclair, and Plummer, all of whom had issued from the Boerhaavian School, and whose eminent abilities their
pupil

pupil lived to commemorate, in his "Account of the Life of the late Dr. Ruffell," at this early period his fellow student and intimate associate.

The first of these professors, that great anatomical oracle, Monro, attended to his numerous pupils with so much sedulous care, as justly denominated him the Father of the College; and no man knew better how to discriminate the genius of his pupils. Dr. FOTHERGILL early caught his attention, in whom he discovered such powers of mind, as promised the most fertile expansion in maturity, and induced the venerable master to urge his pupil to enlarge their cultivation by a longer residence at the university than was at first proposed. He that is born with genius, and an inclination to attempt great things, is generally endowed with vigour of mind to perform them:

—*Possunt, quia posse videntur**. VIRG.

Great natural powers, however, are often combined with great diffidence, which was

* For they can conquer, who believe they can.

DRYDEN.

certainly the situation of Dr. FOTHERGILL at this time, who has often told me, that his opinion of his own abilities was such as reconciled his mind to move in a more subordinate sphere. It may therefore be primarily attributed to the discernment of this eminent professor, that his pupil was at once destined to occupy a higher station, to redeem apparent victims of disease by his skill; and he survived long enough to see that he had not made a false estimate of his genius, while his industry of application, and ardour after instruction, tended to confirm the professor's sagacity; for as he advanced in knowledge, he found daily excitements to further progress.

At this period some of the professors delivered lectures in Latin, and others in English. Dr. FOTHERGILL adopted a method of improving upon both, which it may not be improper to mention here: it is what he has since recommended to me; and whoever follows his example, will be apt to recommend it to others; for much is due to him who first breaks the way to knowledge, and leaves only to his successors the task of smoothing it. He took

notes

notes of the heads of each lecture, and on his return to his lodgings, he translated those into Latin which had been given in English, and then carefully consulted and compared the opinions both of the ancients and moderns upon the subject of the lectures, with the lectures themselves; after which he added such remarks on each, as his reading and reflection furnished: by this means he gained a knowledge of the ancients, as well as the moderns; he enlarged his ideas, and acquired the early habit of examining opinions, and discriminating between those merely speculative, and those which resulted from fact and experiment;—in a word, he hereby necessarily acquired new powers of reflection, and an increased energy of judgment*.

A mode, not dissimilar, he followed in his studies: when any medical case occurred worthy of remark, and there are few cases but to a student of medicine are important, he examined various authorities upon the

* This relation I had from the Doctor himself; and since his decease, I saw his *Materia Medica Lectures*, which were sent to me by my ingenious friend J. Cockfield, of Upton.

same subject, and from these combined means drew a comparative result: what he had adopted with so much success, he recommended many years afterwards, in an epistolary address with which he condescended to favour me*, wherein he concludes with recommending the “ careful
“ perusal of Hippocrates, and also of
“ Aretæus and Celsus; one can never,” he adds, “ be too well acquainted with
“ the knowledge contained in the first,
“ nor with the elegant expressions of the
“ last.”

Soon after he had finished his studies at Edinburgh, the celebrated professor I have already mentioned, who was completing the fourth edition of his great work of Osteology, which has ever since been deemed the most perfect performance in this branch of anatomy, and whose genius led him to enliven his subject with ample reflection, and various philosophical and practical facts, apprized of the inquisitive spirit of his pupil, not only condescended to ask, but to adopt his opinions in some instances.

* Letter to the Editor.

It must have been highly grateful to the Father of the college, to see the rays which had issued from his mind, thus reflected with encreased emanation *.

We see not unfrequently ingenious youths, diverted by the ardour of imagination into irregularities, which length of time, and the strength of mature reason, with difficulty correct; but in the present subject of biography, we search in vain for the season of youthful indulgence: as he adopted by his conduct, so he claimed an hereditary portion of his father's virtues, and has left us to judge of his youth, by numbering his years, rather than by recounting his pursuits †.

It

* The first edition of *Monro's Osteology* was printed in the year 1726; a second edition was given to the public in 1732, and a third about six years afterwards: it was the fourth edition, which appeared in 1746, that he referred to Dr. FOTHERGILL; and I am informed that he paid the same respectful compliment to Dr. Cuming, and gratefully acknowledged the assistance these intimate friends afforded him.

† Besides his other useful engagements at Edinburgh, Dr. FOTHERGILL kept a diary of his actions, and of such occurrences as happened to him, in classical Latin, as I have been informed by a gentleman who once had
a glimpse

It was in the year 1736 that he graduated at Edinburgh, and printed his Thesis “ de “ Emeticorum usu ;” soon after which he came to London, and attended the practice of St. Thomas’s hospital. Here he was at once furnished with the most ample opportunities of examining the doctrines of the schools, by a series of facts drawn from disease and dissection ; and I have heard it related by some of his contemporaries, that his application here was unremitting, and his remarks on the cases were often listened to by his seniors. Objects of poverty have all those feelings alive, that can rightly

a glimpse of it, on the following occasion : The Doctor requested his company in a visit to one of the professors, with whom he was more particularly acquainted ; they breakfasted with the professor, who received them in an easy and gracious manner, as they went to *hear*, and left the choice of the conversation in a great measure to the professor, who was chearful, in good spirits, and talkative ; but the principal part of his conversation consisted of some lively entertaining adventures, that befel him while he was a student of London, Paris, and Leyden. The gentleman saw the insertion of this visit in the Doctor’s diary, in which his account of the professor’s conversation was related in these few words, “ *Multa dixit, non multa didicimus.*”

estimate

estimate the assiduity and the sympathy of those to whom they look up for succour; they are equally jealous of apparent neglect, and grateful of seeming tenderness; and however unremitting the diligence of the Doctor might have been, his humanity to the poor was still more conspicuous to them: to be diligent was his interest, to be humane was the spontaneous effusion of a good heart: this the patients saw and felt; and when he left the hospital, he soon experienced the pleasing confirmation of their decision.

However dark some may represent the propensities of mankind, ample knowledge of the poor has confirmed me in an opinion, that they are less inclinable to complain of injuries, than to acknowledge obligations: private injuries affect individuals, and mankind are more addicted to hearken to the relation of general good, than partial evil; and his humanity having become a subject of discussion to the miserable tenants of a sick ward, such as were discharged, not quite restored to health, found the way to the house of this amiable physician. Comfort of mind is a powerful
restorative

restorative to a weakened constitution, and he who divides our miseries by his sympathy, proportionally adds to our consolation. Change of air, doubtless, contributes much to restore the fibre that has been debilitated by grief, penury, and sickness; and the same gratitude which impels the mind to dwell on virtuous rather than on vicious actions, would determine the eye of gratitude to him, who last saw us emerge from misery; to him is attributed all the merits of his predecessors, as the artist who casts the metal is less valued than him who polishes its surface.

Ὁ ἄνθρωπος εὐεργέτης πεφικώς *.

ANTONIN. Lib. ix.

It is, however, certain, that the poor who applied to him for relief, were loud in proclaiming the success of his practice, and gradually raised him to more lucrative employment. I mention this source of his early introduction, because Dr. FOTHERGILL himself has often told me how much he was indebted to this class of grateful though penniless supplicants; and in his

* Man is naturally beneficent.

turn he acknowledged the obligation, by humanely continuing to give advice gratis to the poor, as long as he lived, long after their suffrages could tend to elevate his reputation: his persevering benevolence could then alone be actuated by the innate goodness of his heart.

About this time, before he could have been established in any degree of general practice in his profession, he was solicited to accompany a few friends in an excursion to the Continent; they were persons of too many engagements at home, to admit of long residence in any one spot, and consequently could not possibly acquire an extensive or accurate knowledge of the places they visited in the compass of this excursive tour. I am persuaded, however, that it was not fruitless; for long afterwards, when I was in company with the Doctor, a gentleman who was concerned in the conveyance of some merchandize through Germany, was desirous of knowing the communications by land and water; the inland duties, and other particulars; to which he replied with a precision and detail, that evinced the inquisitiveness of

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the

the traveller, and the useful manner in which he had employed his moments. Of the parts traversed in this excursion, the Doctor, on his return, communicated an account to his friend Dr. Cuming of Dorchester, in a Latin letter *, which the latter entrusted to me ; and these places are enumerated in so concise and classical a manner, that I have taken the liberty to adopt the language of the original on this occasion :

“ ‡ Lustratis aliquibus *Flandriæ* urbi-
 “ bus munitissimis, per magnam *Brabantia*
 “ partem migravimus; relicto quippe *Gan-*
 “ *davio*, ad *Bruxellensem* spatiosam splen-
 “ didamque urbem nosmetipsos contu-
 “ limus, per oppidulum olim valle et
 “ muro vel potius aggere munitum,
 “ nomine *Ask*, (*Isca*) notissimum quidem
 “ *Brabantia* incolis, quoniam exindè pri-
 “ mò

* Dated London, anno 1740.

‡ Having examined some well-fortified cities of Flanders, and travelled through great part of Brabant; leaving Ghent, we passed on to Brussels (a spacious splendid city), through a little town called Ask, formerly fortified with a mote and wall, or rather a bank of earth: it is well known to the inhabitants of Brabant, because

“ mō Lupulos, horumque colendi modum
 “ mutuati sunt *Angli*, in maximum totius
 “ *Brabantiae* damnum; utpote olim in
 “ hoc mercaturæ genere fatis celebris. A
 “ *Bruxellis* itur ad *Leodiam* hodie *Liege*
 “ Anglorum, *Luttich* Germanorum, inco-
 “ larum vero *Luich*, urbem ob arcis ob-
 “ fidionem diuturnam fatis celebrem,
 “ deinde ad oppidulum *Spadanum* et *Aquis-*
 “ *granum*, loca quidem toto orbe notiffi-
 “ ma. Ibi aquas minerales, hic thermæ
 “ potavi, gustavi, aliqua institutus sum
 “ experimenta, sed vulgaria quidem, ob
 “ defectum apparatus ad hanc rem idonei.
 “ Trajectum ad *Mosam*, *Sylvam Ducis*
 “ (*Bois*

because the English had their hops first from this place,
 and here learnt the method of cultivating them, to the
 great loss of the whole country, which was formerly
 famous for this branch of commerce. From Brussels
 we went to Liege, called by the Germans Luttich, but
 by the inhabitants Lüich, a city celebrated for the long
 siege of its castle. From hence we passed on to the
 Spa and Aix la Chapelle, places known to every one.
 At the first of these I observed the mineral waters,
 and at the latter the hot springs: I drank of them, and
 made some experiments upon them, common ones in-
 deed, for want of a proper apparatus. We next visited
 b Maestricht,

“ (*Bois le Duc*,) *Dordrechtum*, iter ad
 “ celebrè emporium *Rotterdamum* tenen-
 “ tes, visitavimus; urbem *Delphensem*,
 “ villam splendidissimam *Hagensem*, ur-
 “ bem *Leydam*, *Haerlemam* pertransivimus
 “ ad nobilissimam Batavorum civitatem
 “ *Amstelodamum*; urbe deinde perlus-
 “ tratâ, per fretum vulgo dictum *Dee*
 “ *Zuyder Zee* navigamus ad oppidum
 “ dictum a Batavis *Worcum* in *Westfrisia*,
 “ distans viginti præter propter milliaria
 “ a *Leuwardia*, nitidâ fatis et bene mu-
 “ nitâ hujus provinciæ urbe primâ.

“ Hinc tendimus ad *Groningam*, et demum
 “ per arenosas incultasque regiones, per
 “ que

Maastricht, Bois le Duc, Dordrecht, and continued our journey to that celebrated emporium Rotterdam. We passed through the city of Delft, the Hague, a very splendid village, the cities of Leyden and Haerlem, to the most noble of the Dutch cities Amsterdam. Having taken a view of it, we sailed through the strait commonly called *Dee Zuyder Zee*, to a town called by the Dutch *Worcum*, in *Westfriesland*, distant about twenty miles from *Leuwarden*, the first city of this province, neat and pretty well fortified.

From this place we went to *Groningen*, and travelling through a sandy, uncultivated country, we came to
 Oldenburgh,

“ que urbem *Oldenburgum*, et villam unam
 “ alteramque longe a se invicem diffitam
 “ accedimus ad liberam civitatem *Bremen-*
 “ *sem*, celebre fatis emporium atque dives:
 “ hîc in cella sub templo maximo cathe-
 “ drali, corpora aliquot exsiccata, (humana
 “ intellige), dura firmaque, naturâ confer-
 “ vata, peregrinantibus ostenduntur, nullo
 “ condimento vel arte qualibet tractata, sed
 “ merâ quæ cellæ insit virtute conserva-
 “ trice; est locus non admodum profundus,
 “ et ex uno latere vento perflabilis, sicca
 “ est admodum, tota quippe circumcirca
 “ regio arenosa est. Sed licet plurimæ
 “ aliæ sunt sub eodem templo hujusmodi
 “ cavernæ,

Oldenburgh, and passing through several villages a good
 distance one from another, we came to Bremen, a free city,
 a great emporium, and wealthy: here they shew to travel-
 lers, in a cellar under the great cathedral church, some
 human bodies, dried, hard and firm, preserved by nature,
 and the mere antiputrescent quality of the cavern, with-
 out any preparation or assistance from art whatever. The
 place is not very deep, is exposed to the wind on one side,
 and exceedingly dry, as the whole country round about
 is sandy. But, although there are similar caverns under
 the same church, and also under other neighbouring
 b 2 churches,

“ cavernæ, et etiam sub aliis et vicinis
 “ templis, nulla adhuc invenitur quæ eâdem
 “ dote potitur. Corpora circa duode-
 “ cem habent integra, ex quibus unum
 “ ducentos circiter annos habet; alterum,
 “ centum et quinquaginta, reliqua, diversa-
 “ rum ætatum et temporum; penitus ex
 “ succa videntur et levia, firma tamen adeo
 “ ut impositâ sub capite manu totum cor-
 “ pus absque minima flexura facile possis
 “ erigere. Magnam nitri copiam causam
 “ esse asserunt incolæ, quod in tanta
 “ quantitate erui potest, ut singulæ
 “ libræ terræ hujus cavernæ exhibent
 “ uncias duas nitri purissimi *.”

churches, none has yet been found, that possesses the
 same virtue. There are twelve whole bodies compleat,
 one of which is about two hundred years old; another,
 one hundred and fifty; the rest are of different ages:
 they seem perfectly dry and light; but so firm, that,
 placing the hand under the chin, one may easily raise up
 the whole body, without the least flexure in any part.
 The inhabitants say, that the great quantity of nitre is
 the cause of these phænomena, which may be dug up in
 such plenty, that every pound weight of the earth of
 this cavern contains two ounces of the purest nitre.

* Since more fully enlarged upon by Wraxall,
 in his Travels.

This

This epistle contains reflections equally pertinent and ingenious, on the manners of the people whom he visited ; and concludes with just and animated praises of mental liberty, and the most cordial professions of friendship for his correspondent.

After this excursion on the Continent, he returned to London, and took up his residence in Gracechurch Street ; we may therefore date the commencement of his practice in the year 1740, for though he graduated in 1736, the intermediate time was chiefly employed in attending the hospitals, and laying that foundation, upon which was afterwards to be raised a distinguished superstructure. His Thesis, as it was never before the present time translated into English, with all the merit it certainly possesses, could not excite the public attention, or acquire popular approbation, and consequently could not materially contribute to extend his reputation : the same might be admitted respecting his “ Re-
 “ marks on the neutral Salts of Plants, and
 “ on Terra Foliated Tartari,” published in the same year in the Edinburgh Medical Es-

says, as subjects merely restricted to medical disquisition.

In 1744, his “*Essay on the Origin of Amber,*” and his “*Observations on the Manna Persicum,*” were inserted in the *Philosophical Transactions*: and likewise, in 1745, his “*Letter to Dr. Mead,*” and his “*Observations on a Case of recovering a Man dead in Appearance.*” In the subsequent year he was admitted a licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians.

Men of great talents do not always employ them on temporary or popular subjects; but on the other hand, their works, like the precious metals, are not injured by their antiquity: the preceding performances were rather solid than brilliant; calculated rather to ensure future reputation than present emolument, and will be read now with as much pleasure as when they were first published. What he endeavoured to prove, to illustrate and enforce, respecting the recovery of drowned persons, has been since attempted in most maritime states of Europe; and he enjoyed the pleasure of living to see those rules adopted with success

cess in this metropolis, by the ardour of Dr. Hawes and others, which upwards of thirty years before he had recommended by his pen. To whatever merit these Observations were justly entitled, the subject at that time excited no popular attention, though since prosecuted with a zeal that does honour to humanity; it could not, therefore, have contributed, in any considerable degree, to elevate his character; yet at this time he had acquired a large share of employment in his profession, and his emoluments were then superior to what many physicians of long standing at this time can boast. He was ever averse from speaking of the pecuniary emoluments of his profession; and excepting what he intimated in the present instance, he never, to my recollection, mentioned the subject; and upon this occasion it was collected from collateral circumstances, and not from immediate information. Nothing hurt his feelings more, than estimating the profession of physic by its lucrative advantages; the art of healing, he considered in that sacred point of view, which connected it with a conscientious principle of action. “ My

“ only wish,” he declares, “ was to do
 “ what little business might fall to my
 “ share, as well as possible; and to banish
 “ all thoughts of practising physic as a
 “ money-getting trade, with the same soli-
 “ citude, as I would the suggestions of
 “ vice or intemperance*.” And when
 the success of his practice had raised him to
 the summit of reputation and emolument,
 he seemed actuated by the same sentiment.
 “ I endeavour,” says this conscientious
 physician, “ to follow my business, because
 “ it is my duty, rather than my interest;
 “ the last is inseparable from a just dis-
 “ charge of duty, but I have ever wished
 “ to look at the profits in the last place,
 “ and this wish has attended me ever since
 “ my beginning †.”

If this language is foreign to the man
 of the world, it is at least worthy of a man
 of principle; and no physician will be
 worse for its perusal or imitation, nor of
 what he afterwards communicated upon
 the same subject. “ I wished at my first.

* Letter to the Editor, dated Lea-hall, anno 1769.

† Ditto, dated anno 1770.

“ setting out,” he observes, “ I wished
 “ most fervently, and I endeavour after it
 “ still, to do the business that occurred,
 “ with all the diligence I could, as a
 “ *present duty*, and endeavoured to repress
 “ every rising idea of its consequences;
 “ knowing most assuredly that there was a
 “ hand, which could easily overthrow every
 “ pursuit of this kind, and baffle every
 “ attempt, either to acquire fame or wealth.
 “ And with a great degree of gratitude, I
 “ look back to the gracious secret pre-
 “ server, that kept my mind more atten-
 “ tive to the discharge of my present
 “ anxious care for those I visited, than
 “ either to the profits or the credit result-
 “ ing from it: and I am sure, to be kept
 “ under such a circumscribed un aspiring
 “ temper of mind, doing every thing with
 “ diligence, humility, and as in the sight of
 “ the God of healing, frees the mind from
 “ much unavailing distress, and conse-
 “ quential disappointment*.”

There are many incidental circumstances which tend to introduce a physician into

* Letter to the Editor, dated Lea-hall, anno 1773.

practice, independent of any intrinsic merit, and religious profession is not one of the least : whoever acquires the foremost reputation with the leaders of a sect, is by them naturally considered and proclaimed as the first of the medical profession at large ; but as there were two physicians of the same religious sentiments with Dr. FOTHERGILL, previously settled in the metropolis, his early reputation could not be deduced from his religion ; neither could family connexion operate in a stronger manner, because the residence of his relations was principally in the north of England. Whatever reputation is acquired, unconnected with literature or medical skill, is precarious at all times : if patients are not cured ; if success does not follow practice ; a specious importance acquired or supported by partial or superficial pretences, is seldom permanent. In concerns of such magnitude, where health and life are at stake, partial attachments will vanish, and a conviction of superior sagacity and skill will at length predominate. Whether we consider Dr. FOTHERGILL's early acquisition of reputation, or its future accumulation, we cannot

cannot hesitate to ascribe it to his superior merit, or to that singular combination of vigorous powers of mind, and chaste integrity of manners, which for a series of years conciliated the affections, and claimed the unreserved confidence, of the public.

*Sunt verba et voces, quibus hunc lenire
dolorem*

*Possis, et magnam morbi deponere par-
tem.* HOR*.

Highly flattering as his success must have been, at this early period, it bore very little proportion to that blaze of character which succeeded his "Account of the Sore Throat attended with Ulcers," published in 1748, and since deservedly translated into every European language. Not long before this time, the disease which he now elucidated, in its general havock in London, had swept away indiscriminately, the hopes of some noble families, and particularly the two sons of

* The pow'r of words, and soothing sounds, appease
The raging pain, and lessen the disease.

FRANCIS.

the

the late Henry Pelham, brother to the late duke of Newcastle, and had hence excited very general alarm; the discovery therefore of a new and successful treatment of so formidable and fatal a disease, was critically fortunate for the public, as well as for the author. Medical essays which promise improvements in the art of healing, are usually offered to the public in a state of imperfection, as long and repeated experiment is requisite to mature the offspring of a luxuriant genius; but this performance was exempted from the imbecillity of a hasty birth, and the revolution it produced in the treatment of this disease, has obtained the sanction of the ablest physicians from that period to the present time, with less deviation perhaps than has attended the management of any other acute disorder.

As the alarm among persons of fashion, long subsisted, the Doctor's reputation rapidly increased. Whoever astonishes the public with new discoveries upon any popular disease, the reputation of sagacity in every other, will be annexed. He was now introduced into the first families in the metropolis; and he was rarely ever employed,

ed, but in emergencies he was sought for again.

But whoever deviates from a routine of practice familiarized by long habit, will encounter opposition; or if truth is too brilliant to be eluded, that opposition takes the form of envy, armed on all sides with detraction; the discovery is anticipated by some previous description, or vague suggestion, which at the time gained no influence, nor deserved any attention. Such insinuations have been urged against the merits of the present performance, upon such a foundation indeed as does not deserve the trouble of refutation. The very general and almost invariable attribution of the discovery to Dr. FOTHERGILL, by his contemporaries, weighs with me much more forcibly, than the slight suggestion, that a physician had previously found out the disease, its symptoms and its cure, in writers, which are themselves obscure. Nobody could doubt the sagacity of Dr. Letherland; but beyond the obligation which Dr. FOTHERGILL has candidly acknowledged to him, I see no reason to detract from the merit of the latter, who
uniformly,

uniformly, without reserve, always spoke of it as his own production; and without the consciousness of desert, no person that knew him, could be ignorant, that his modesty and his integrity would equally revolt at any unworthy plagiarism.

Had Dr. FOTHERGILL's Account of the Sore Throat been merely a publication of doctrines previously known and adopted, such a plagiarism must have been notorious to every medical man in the city; and the performance which announced a supposed discovery, would have met with general contempt, instead of that éclat which it conferred upon the writer, and which suddenly swelled the current of his business, and consequently of his emolument: the first induced him to seek for some moments of retirement, and the last enabled him to effect it, as far as a physician in extensive practice could command moments of leisure. The natural bias of the mind is most apt to shew itself in a state of independence, when unrestrained by exterior concerns: in an active and multifarious genius, with which the Doctor was endowed, it would be difficult to ascertain his warmest excitements:

ments: individuals themselves are not always the most competent judges of the *cuique voluptas*; actions constitute a more certain criterion, and by this standard we may conclude, that he did not make a false estimate of his own propensities; as long before he was able to command that leisure which he never chose to allow himself, he observed, that “chemistry and
 “natural history would be his entertain-
 “ments, were he wholly at leisure; he
 “could not, however, lose sight of the
 “*cui bono*, in any researches: there is
 “still room enough for discoveries; many
 “points that we believe, rather than
 “know; and some of these he could wish
 “to determine by experiments *.”

In those departments of science, where fact alone depends upon the result of experiment, that leisure, that sedulous perseverance is demanded, which is incompatible with the sudden and unexpected avocations of a physician. In chemistry, where demonstration has superseded vague

* Letter to Dr. Cuming, dated London, anno 1744.

hypothesis, this studious attention is particularly requisite: however strong therefore, the Doctor's propensity to chemical researches might have been, the practice of medicine, and a judicious mode of prescribing, were not calculated to amplify its boundaries: this department of science was not then either so generally or so successfully cultivated: Hales, and other philosophers, had laid down a wide field for investigation, and experiments have been since multiplied, more particularly relative to medicine, diet, and the animal œconomy. The *Air* which we breathe, as one homogeneous fluid, was now analyzed by new experiments in the North; but it was reserved for a Priestley to develop the *Aerial System*, to embody shades invisible to former ages, and place them in systematic light: but long before this period of astonishing elucidation of air, Dr. FOTHERGILL had suggested experiments upon this really heterogeneous fluid: so early as 1744, he communicated to his friend Dr. Cuming*, not only his doubts respecting the real contents of the air, but

* Letter dated London, anno 1744.

the process of experiment he meant to institute. How far he pursued a design so worthy of an ingenious mind, I am uncertain; but the state of his health, which he afterwards introduces as an obstacle to his pursuit, and the encrease of various avocations, probably terminated these enquiries. The method he proposed to adopt, he thus describes: "I have ordered some large glass
 " bells to be made, but of a more conical
 " figure, capable of holding several gallons: these in warm weather will be placed
 " upon proper supports, the apex lowest,
 " the broad open base above: the coldest
 " water will be poured into them, and
 " rendered still colder by sal ammoniac
 " and sal communis; on the outside, the
 " moisture of the air will be condensed in
 " large quantities, and afterwards subjected
 " to chemical analysis."

Although a natural bias for experiment, does not now appear in many instances of his chemical investigations, yet it obviously pervaded the whole composition of his prescriptions. It is well known, that the mere exterior surface of bodies is no criterion of their component parts, when
 c . . . analyzed

analyzed by chemical processes: the most simple and innocent articles used in diet, consist of parts, which, developed and separated, become highly corrosive; culinary salt, applied to so many useful and dietetic purposes, contains, as well as nitre and common sulphur, an acid, which is destructive to the hardest substances: other combinations may be formed, of bodies inoffensive and inert in their distinct states, which on union, become noxious to animal life. Chemistry is hence absolutely requisite to form a physician, who must have daily reference to it in his practice: yet in this department of medicine, physicians are not unfrequently deficient; by which compositions have been recommended, and from thence combinations have resulted, which the prescriber neither proposed nor suspected. This was not the fate of Dr. FOTHERGILL; there was such a well-directed selection in all his compositions, as happily united simplicity, elegance, and utility; and as the influence of his practice extended, his mode of prescription was proportionally imitated in the metropolis, and at length so generally adopted, that I
may

JOHN FOTHERGILL, M.D. xxxv

may hazard the assertion, that he principally contributed to bring about a revolution, that substituted elegant simplicity in the place of multifarious and discordant compound.

Materia Medica is that department of medicine most immediately allied to natural history, and to which he had devoted no little attention; having collected a cabinet of materia medica, seldom, if ever, exceeded for its extent or selection. He had even encouraged the idea of delivering lectures upon this entertaining and useful branch of medicine; but an encrease of employment, joined with a diffidence of his own abilities, which none but himself entertained, diverted him from this intention; and his valuable collection was generously presented to the college of Edinburgh, for the use of the public professor of Materia Medica in that university. The handmaid to this branch of medicine is Botany, a department of natural history, which affords the greatest instruction and recreation with the least exercise of the mind: it is, therefore, well adapted to the pursuit of a medical man, whose moments of seclusion

are rather snatched from time by watchful diligence, than enjoyed from actual leisure.

As a rational means of unbending his mind, and affording at the same time collateral advancement in the healing art, botany acquired his patronage. On the Surrey side of the Thames he had noticed a spot of land, the situation of which sheltered it from the severity of the north wind, and in the soil of which vegetables grew luxuriantly; its vicinity was convenient, and its extent rendered its purchase easy, as the proprietor was inclined to sell it: the price was stipulated, and one obstacle alone remained to make it his own; it was let to a tenant at will, whose little family subsisted on its produce, and whose misery was inevitable, had he expelled him from this fruitful soil: the moment he was made acquainted with the circumstances of the family, he refused the offer, adding, “that that could never afford gratification to him, which entailed misery on another;” and when he relinquished this projected Eden, he made the family a present of the intended purchase-money, as I was informed

formed by a relation of the tenant, and had it in part confirmed by the present proprietor.

Not far distant from this admired spot, he had afterwards a garden *, which he occasionally visited ; but he never furnished it with that profusion of exotics which he since collected from every quarter of the globe, and introduced into his garden at Upton, near Stratford. The whole estate was extensive ; the seat was formerly called Rooke-hall, from the name of the person who possessed it in 1566 ; and in 1666, it descended to Sir Robert Smyth, from whose family it was purchased, almost a century afterwards, by Admiral Elliot ; and in August 1762 it became the property of Dr. FOTHERGILL †. The walls of the garden inclosed

* That learned physician and ingenious botanist Dr. William Watson, informed me, that a beautiful Acacia, formerly planted by Dr. FOTHERGILL, and one of the last remains of his horticulture there, was ignorantly cut down about two years ago.

† In the year 1762, when Dr. FOTHERGILL purchased of Admiral Elliot his estate at Upton, it consisted of the house, garden, and lands adjoining, to the amount of about thirty acres.

There were at that time growing in a part of the garden

xxxviii *Some ACCOUNT of the late*

inclosed above five acres of land; a winding canal, in the figure of a crescent, nearly formed

garden called the Wilderness, five large Virginia cedars, not less in diameter than ten inches one with another, and which were probably some of the first of the kind planted in England.

A year or two after, Dr. FOTHERGILL purchased of Peter Bigot, Esq; a parcel of land, extending from the premises bought of Admiral Elliot to the Ilford road; and in the same year began the plantation along the said road.

Not long after, viz. about the year 1764 or 5, he agreed with the proprietor of the large field called Lady Margaret's field, to the east of this new purchase, to run a straight line between their respective grounds; the old fence being no other than a broad sandy bank, and extremely crooked. When this was settled, and the fence made, a plantation was begun on that side, principally consisting of oaks of a very useful kind, the acorns of which were brought from the mountainous parts of Portugal, and the timber is thought to be second to none, in respect to durability.

Likewise some Spanish chesnuts, raised from the nuts, in a plantation upon the premises.

In the garden there was a fine bay hedge; and in the Wilderness, one side of which is inclosed by this hedge, some very large laurels. Excepting these, a Larch, an Acacia, and the Virginia cedars above-mentioned, some large Abeiles, and the fruit-trees against the walls, there was not one foreign plant or shrub in the whole garden.

Whatever there is in the garden, or adjoining fields,
of

formed it into two divisions, and opened occasionally on the sight, through the branches of rare and exotic shrubs, that lined the walks on its banks. In the midst of winter, when the earth was covered with snow, evergreens were clothed in full verdure: without exposure to the open air, a glass door from the mansion-house gave entrance into a suite of hot and green-house apartments of nearly 260 feet extent, containing upwards of 3,400 distinct species of exotics, whose foliage wore a perpetual verdure, and formed a beautiful and striking

of this kind, were planted by Dr. FOTHERGILL, soon after these grounds came into his possession: which circumstance is here mentioned for no other purpose, but that if this memorial should be preserved, it may be known to a succeeding generation, what progress the several shrubs and trees have made.

Some of the trees were not less than fifteen feet high when they were planted; especially those on the west side of the field adjoining to the garden.

The large trees, among which are many rare oaks, were brought out of the first great nursery of North American trees in England at Fulham, belonging to — Gray, an eminent gardener; and the first who, being assisted by Peter Collinson, Mark Catesby, and other curious collectors, supplied England with the vegetable treasures of America.

But in the midst of this enchanting combination of nature, he never lost sight of the *cui bono* : “ In these, as in every other
 “ pursuit,

“ plants which might be ornamental, and probably
 “ useful to this country, or her colonies; and as liberally paid these rewards to all that served him. If
 “ the troubles of war had permitted, we should have
 “ had the cortex Winteranus, &c. &c. introduced by
 “ his means into this country; and also the bread-fruit,
 “ mangasteen, &c. into the West Indies. For each of
 “ these, and many others, he had fixed a proper premium. In conjunction with the Earl of Tankerville,
 “ Dr. Pitcairn, and myself, he sent over a person to
 “ Africa, who is still employed upon the coast of that
 “ country, for the purpose of collecting plants and
 “ specimens.

“ Those whose gratitude for restored health prompted
 “ them to do what was acceptable to their benefactor,
 “ were always informed by him that presents of rare
 “ plants chiefly attracted his attention, and would be
 “ more acceptable to him than the most generous fees.
 “ How many unhappy men, enervated by the effects of
 “ hot climates, where their connections had placed them,
 “ found health on their return home at that cheap purchase !

“ What an infinite number of plants he obtained by
 “ these means, the large collection of drawings he left
 “ behind will amply testify; and that they were equalled by nothing but royal munificence, at this time
 “ largely bestowed upon the botanic gardens at Kew.
 “ In my opinion, no other garden in Europe, royal,
 “ or

“ pursuit, he had always in view the en-
 “ largement and elevation of his own heart;
 “ having formed early habitudes of reli-
 “ gious reference, from the display of di-
 “ vine power and wisdom in the beauty,
 “ the order, and the harmony of external
 “ things, to the glory of their Almighty
 “ Former.—From the influences of these
 “ habitudes, his mind was always preserved
 “ in a disengaged and independent state,
 “ enjoying, but yet adoring *.”

In the superficial cultivation of many de-

“ or of a subject, had nearly so many scarce and valu-
 “ able plants.

“ That science might not suffer a loss, when a plant
 “ he had cultivated should die, he liberally paid the
 “ best artist the country afforded to draw the new
 “ ones as they came to perfection; and so numerous
 “ were they at last, that he found it necessary to em-
 “ ploy more artists than one, in order to keep pace
 “ with their increase. His garden was known all over
 “ Europe, and foreigners of all ranks asked, when they
 “ came hither, permission to see it; of which Dr. So-
 “ lander and myself are sufficient witnesses, from the
 “ many applications that have been made through us
 “ for that permission.” Sir Joseph Banks’s Note in
 Dr. Thompson’s Memoirs of Dr. FOTHERGILL, p. 37.

* Dr. Hird’s Affectionate Tribute to the memory of
 Dr. FOTHERGILL, p. 13.

partments of natural history, expence is often lavished without benefit either to the collector or to the public, where the object is rather to gratify curiosity than to augment and diffuse knowledge : in the enjoyment of horticulture, the mind that was elevated to sublime contemplation, could not be restrained by the partial motive of a mere collector ; and he that in his pursuits enlarges his speculation to the *cui bono*, will never want ample occasions of promoting general good, in the study of vegetable nature, which teems with so many blessings to mankind : whoever considers the importance of clothing, of household furniture, and of his daily bread, cannot but view it as one of the most useful, and consequently one of the most rational pursuits of an enlightened understanding. Of this we shall be convinced, if we reflect what benefit would accrue to mankind, could another dietetic article like the common potatoe be discovered ! How great a benefactor to his fellow-creatures would that man prove, who should find out another grain like wheat, or pulse like the common pea ! or an article of clothing and manufacture superior to
cotton

cotton or flax!—Such considerations influenced Dr. FOTHERGILL; and where he could not produce objects of equal importance, he exerted himself to accomplish others of less, yet of great public utility. What he effected, and what he contributed to do, would fill a volume, were a grateful biographer to enlarge upon them: he pointed out what would suit different soils, and formed a balance in the productions of the globe: from America he received various species of catalpas, kalmias, magnolias, firs, oaks, maples, and other valuable productions, which became denizens of his domain, some of them capable of being applied to the most useful purposes of timber; and, in return, he transported green and bohea teas from his garden at Upton, to the southern part of that great continent, now rising into an independent empire: he endeavoured to improve the growth and quality of coffee in the West India islands; the Bamboo cane (*Arundo Bambos*) calculated for various domestic uses, he procured from China, and purposed to transplant it to our islands situated within the tropics. The last time I was
with

with him at Upton, I introduced Governor Nugent, who deservedly possessed the chief administration of Tortola, to whom he expressed the pleasure he should experience in being the means of furnishing the Caribbæan Archipelago with this useful Asiatic; the very shoots of which were marked for this design. The elegant vegetable is now in my possession; and I recollect with grateful pleasure, as often as I see it, the wish of its former proprietor, hoping, when the tumult of war shall have subsided, to carry his design into execution *.

The Nutmeg-tree now flourishes in the Isle of France, and Clove-trees have been transplanted from thence to Cayenne†. The true Cinnamon is a tree we have not hitherto been able to cultivate out of Asia, though the Doctor used many endeavours to introduce it into our West India colonies. The *Canella cinnamomæa* I had from his garden; and the

* Since I penned the above sentence, I have been informed that the Bamboo cane has been transplanted to Jamaica, where it thrives luxuriously, and has been already applied to many useful purposes.

† Dr. Jussieu obligingly informed me, by letter, of the circumstances respecting the nutmeg and clove trees.

true cinnamon-tree would have arrived here in health, had not the alarm of an enemy's ship induced my friend to throw it over-board, with other articles designed as a present: the war, however, may ultimately extend the cultivation of these exotics, which, like the inhabitants of a seraglio, are cautiously excluded from the eye of strangers *.

Intent as he was to promote so many articles of commerce, manufacture, and convenience, he could not lose sight of those departments of natural history, which were more immediately connected with medicine, in order to ascertain the knowledge of what was already acquired, and to expand it by experiment where deficient. Though he was not the first who administered Hemlock internally, he was the first who accurately discriminated its vir-

* I am indebted to Dr. Vicq D'Azyr, and Dr. De Jussieu, for information on this subject, that Cinnamon has been transplanted to the French West India islands, and particularly to Guadaloupe, where it is greatly increased: (Le Cannelier, transplanté depuis long temps dans les isles d'Amerique, et sur-tout à la Guadaloupe, s'y est très multiplié.) It grows likewise in St. Vincent's.

tues :

tues: by him we were made acquainted with the *Gummi rubrum astringens Gambiense*; and by his endeavours, and the ardour of minds similar to his own, we know that *Terra Japonica* is a vegetable extract*; and to him and Dr. Russell we are indebted for the flourishing of genuine Scammony† in our soil, as if indigenous to it. He attempted to procure the tree which affords the Peruvian bark‡; and is

* Since Dr. FOTHERGILL's decease, I have received seeds of the true *mimosa Japonica*, or tree producing *terra Japonica*, and have distributed portions of them to several eminent botanists in different parts of Europe, as well as placed some in my hot-house at Grove-hill. They were sent by Dr. Kerr, an ingenious physician resident at Calcutta.

† Dr. FOTHERGILL observes, that with no small trouble Dr. Russell succeeded in procuring us the seeds of the true scammony. They were raised by my two botanical friends, the late Peter Collinson, and the indefatigable James Gordon. Seeds were likewise sent over to the southern colonies of America, in hopes that in a similar soil and latitude, in some future time we might from thence have this valuable drug unadulterated. *LIFE of Dr. RUSSELL*, p. 15.

‡ He likewise offered a premium of one hundred pounds each to two captains of ships, for a plant in vegetation of the true Winter's bark, (*Winterana aromatica*.)

said

said to have at length so far succeeded, as to have had one plant in his garden, but which I believe died with its possessor. This invaluable tree, which is so common in Peru and Chili, would doubtless thrive on the North American continent, and in the larger West India islands; it is perhaps already indigenous to the mountains of Jamaica*; and by successive endeavours it may hereafter be cultivated in the colonies of different European states: we have seen in how short a period of time the true Rhubarb (*Rheum palmatum*) has been naturalized to our soil, furnishing us at home with so important an acquisition to the *Materia Medica*. If we have not already cultivated it so successfully as to rival the foreign, it is at least nearly equal in medi-

* A friend of Dr. Clarke's, of Jamaica, (Alexander Roberts) has lately found a species of the *Cinchona* with racemose flowers, very similar to those of the *Cinchona Caribæa* of Jaquin and Linnæus, and to the *Cinchona Jamaicensis* of Dr. Wright, described in the *Philosophical Transactions*, vol. lxvii. p. 504. In the year 1781, a periodical publication, entitled the *Jamaica Magazine*, commenced; and in the third, fourth, and fifth numbers, the *Jamaica Cinchona* is particularly described.

cinal

cinal qualities; and future experiments
 may enable us to supply all our own con-
 sumption. Much depends upon the nature
 of the soil, and much upon the manner of
 drying the root after it has been taken up:
 to promote its growth, and the improve-
 ment of its quality, Dr. FOTHERGILL
 carefully exerted himself; and his directions
 respecting the method of drying it, I shall
 give in his own words: " There is one cir-
 " cumstance, relative to the drying of this
 " root, that I have long thought of, and if
 " not practised, would recommend to those
 " who cultivate this article.

" The large holes which we commonly
 " meet with in the Turkey Rhubarb, are
 " not the effect of accident, but design:
 " they are absolutely necessary; for, by
 " opening a passage for the air to the cen-
 " ter of these pieces, they not only dry
 " sooner, but retain their colour, and per-
 " haps their medicinal virtues, the better.

" After having washed, and cut the root
 " into large pieces, let a large hole be
 " bored through the center with some in-
 " strument that makes a large excavation.
 " Let a rope of well-dried rushes, or straw,

I *Some ACCOUNT of the late*

“ as large as the cavity will receive, be in-
“ stantly drawn through it: this will pre-
“ vent the drying root from contracting,
“ whilst the porous rope admits the air to
“ pass through, and carry off the central
“ moisture. Several pieces may be hung
“ up together, taking care that they do
“ not come into contact; and I should
“ think (though experience must deter-
“ mine this) that it would be best to take
“ up the roots, when the leaves early in
“ autumn die away, rather than in the
“ spring: they will be less succulent in
“ autumn, but their pieces will be more
“ active and efficacious *.”

A man.

* Letter to Dr. Falconar, of Bath. The public is, however, highly indebted to the amiable Dr. Hope, professor of botany in the college of Edinburgh, for his introduction of Rhubarb into these kingdoms. See *Philos. Transact.* art. xxxii. vol. lv. ann. 1765. This distinguished professor informs me †, that he is of opinion, and his opinion on such a subject no one will doubt, that the *Rheum Palmatum* is the same with the Russian, which formerly was called the Turkey Rhubarb; and differs so much in its sensible qualities from the China Rhubarb, as to induce him to think with Sir Joseph Banks that they are different species. The farina

† Letter to the Editor, dated Nov. 18, 1782.

A man of science, confined by a local profession, like the practice of physic, which occupies the most precious moments of time, may suggest more to others, than he can himself have an opportunity to effect; but, like the genial rays of the sun, his influence may extend to the most remote regions of the globe: and thus it was

of one species, operates upon the seeds of another, and thereby produces high-bred plants, which hitherto have not produced fertile seeds in the botanic gardens in Scotland, where the experiment has been made.

“ At first,” observes the professor, “ depending on
 “ the information received from books, we kept the
 “ root ten or twelve years in the ground, and thought
 “ that the longer we kept it so, the better quality
 “ would the Rhubarb possess; but experience has taught
 “ us, that the root should not remain above four years
 “ in the ground. The Rhubarb of this country is
 “ equal in quality to the best Russian. As there is now
 “ scarcely a garden in Scotland without a Rhubarb plant
 “ in it, the consumption of the foreign Rhubarb is con-
 “ siderably less, and annually a small quantity is sent
 “ to London.

“ The late Earl of Hopetoun made some interesting
 “ discoveries respecting its cultivation, and the late
 “ Duke of Athol had very large plantations of it.

“ Sir Alexander Dick early received a gold medal
 “ from the Society of Arts in London, for producing
 “ the largest quantity of well-dried rhubarb.”

that Dr. FOTHERGILL promoted the investigation of Nature, and excited enquiries after her curious productions, as far as navigation and commerce had diffused arts and sciences. Men of more genius than fortune found in him a liberal patron ; he contributed to support them while they explored distant regions, and amply rewarded their discoveries. As he studied most departments of natural history, as he patronized its ingenious cultivators, he necessarily became possessed of a valuable collection of its rare objects : next to the Dukes of Portland, he had the best cabinet of Shells in the kingdom * ; his collection of Ores and Minerals, dug out of different parts of the earth, were distinguished for their rarity rather than for their number. Of Reptiles

* The versatility of Dr. FOTHERGILL's genius was remarkable :—Few were acquainted with his accurate knowledge of Conchology, for he made no ostentation of it, and yet Da Costa is indebted to him for many important remarks in his ingenious History of Shells, and for most of the notes with which it is enlarged and improved. The MS. notes, in Dr. FOTHERGILL's writing, were presented to me by Da Costa himself, with a modesty which reflects additional credit upon this eminent naturalist.

and

and Animals, the gratitude of those he had patronized furnished him with a curious variety: in the same manner he became possessed of an elegant cabinet of Insects, which was greatly enlarged by the exertions of the ingenious Smeathman. His Corals, from whence Ellis, that indefatigable and microscopical naturalist, delineated his system, and created a new species of animal beings, was the foremost in Europe *. Those objects of nature, which were too bulky to transport, or too perishable to preserve, he ordered to be delineated by the pencil of artists, that he might give bread to a set of ingenious men, whom he wished to partake of his beneficence, whilst he rationally gratified his own taste, and enlarged the boundaries of the knowledge of nature: of such elegant specimens, whose value is difficult to estimate, he did not possess less than twelve hundred †; and his collection of English Heads, which included

* These and other curious subjects of natural history were purchased by Dr. Hunter for £. 1,500.

† These drawings were chiefly on vellum, by Ehret, Taylor, Harris, Miller, and Ann Lee, and were lately purchased for the Empress of Russia for 2,300 pounds.

those purchased of the late John Nickolls*, formed a treasure in this particular department, which was perhaps inferior to none.

In the practice of Physic, it is as difficult
to

* I am obliged to the ingenious antiquary John Nichols, of the same name, though no relation of the deceased, for the following communication, from his *Anecdotes of Mr. Bowyer*, not yet published. The tracts hinted at, are deposited in the Meeting in Peter's Court.

“ Mr. John Nickolls, F. R. and A. S. S. a Quaker, in partnership with his father of the same name, a capital mealman at Hertford, and of Trinity parish, near Queenhith, London. He was chosen F. A. S. Jan 17, 1740; and possessed the esteem of a respectable number of friends, who were deprived of him by a fever, at the age of 34, Jan. 11, 1745. His remains were deposited in the burial-ground at Bunhill Fields on the 16th. Mr. Nickolls published “ *Original Letters and Papers* “ of State, addressed to Oliver Cromwell, concerning “ the affairs of Great Britain, from the year 1649 to “ 1658, found among the Political Collections of Mr. “ John Milton; now first published from the *Originals* †; 1743,” folio, inscribed to Arthur Onslow, Esq.

† The originals of these Letters were long treasured up by Milton; from whom they came into the possession of Thomas Elwood, a person who for many years was well acquainted with, and esteemed by Milton. From Elwood they came to Joseph Wyeth, citizen and merchant of London; and from Wyeth's widow, they were obtained by Mr. Nickolls; after whose decease they were presented by his father to the Society of Antiquaries, as appears by their minutes.

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to command leisure, as it is to govern the voice of Fame; they both depend so much upon the opinion of the public, that the physician who expects to enjoy the former,
or

He was the first † regular collector of English Heads §. His noble collection of about 2,000 Heads, four volumes in folio, and six in quarto, neatly let-in (which furnished Mr. Ames with his valuable catalogue), came soon after his death into the library of Dr. FOTHERGILL, who purchased it for eighty guineas. Dr. FOTHERGILL purchased likewise a pretty large collection of Tracts which Mr. Nickolls had picked up in his pursuit of Heads, written by those of his own persuasion from their first appearance; which the benevolent possessor intends to leave to the Meeting to which he at present belongs, in Peter's Court, Westminster. Besides these collections, he had several views by great

† Anthony Wood, in his account of E. Ashmole, tells us, "In his library I saw a large thick paper book near a yard long, containing on every side of the leaf two, three, or more pictures or faces of eminent persons of England, and elsewhere, printed from copper cuts, pasted on them, which Mr. Ashmole had with great curiosity collected; and I remember he has told me, that his mind was so eager to obtain all faces, that when he could not get a face by itself, he would buy the book, tear it out, paste it in his blank book, and write under it from whence he had taken it." An admirable portrait this of our modern portrait-collectors, who have sent back many a volume to the bookseller's shop stripped of its graven honours. A most noted Collector told a person at Cambridge, who now and then sells a head, "That his own collection must needs be large and good, as it rested on six points: 1. I buy; 2. I borrow; 3. I beg; 4. I exchange; 5. I steal; 6. I sell."—Mr. Ashmole's book was consumed with the rest of his library.

§ See the virulent censure of Mr. Rowe Mores on this species of collectors: Dissertation on English Founders, p. 85.

or controul the latter, will meet with daily disappointment : to acquire popular reputation, however, there must be success, and when acquired, under the same circumstances, it must be continually accumulating. Sickness, which is always unwelcome, is not restricted to stated times ; and, in like manner, the leisure of those whose profession it is to remove it, is uncertain ; hence it was, that Dr. FOTHERGILL never could command that respite from employment, which was requisite to the relief of a mind so incessantly exerted. It may be observed in general, that the future is purchased by the present : “ It is not possible
 “ to secure distant or permanent happiness,
 “ but by the forbearance of some immediate
 “ gratification.”

*Ad quæ non veniunt præsentis gaudia vitæ,
 Nec currunt pariter capta, et capienda voluptas* *.
 PRUD.

masters ; some of which fell also into the hands of Dr. FOTHERGILL. The catalogue of his library, in his own hand-writing (including 332 volumes of tracts in folio, 4to. and 8vo.) is in the possession of Mr. Tutet.”

* For baffled mortals still attempt in vain,
 Present and future bliss at once to gain.

F. LEWIS.

It is true, that a physician of independent fortune, determined to indulge in leisure, may refuse the solicitations of his patients ; but if there be not a principle of honour, which impels him to the exercise of his art when requested, there is of humanity ; and this ever was a sufficient impulse to the Doctor to sacrifice his own gratification to the relief and happiness of the sick, and his health to that of his patients : this led him, as often as his friends requested him to contract his practice, to reply, “ I cannot desert those who have once placed their lives in my hands ; if I suffer, it is in my duty.”

But in the summer, there are much fewer residents in the metropolis, and in proportion still less sickness ; prevented, therefore, as he was, by the mutual influence of his fame, and of his sensibility, from the enjoyment of any relaxation at Upton, (whither, if he went, messages frequently intercepted him) he chose to retreat, for a few weeks, at this salubrious season of the year, to Lea-Hall, in Cheshire, a seat belonging to the Leicester family, about 18 miles from Warrington, where

two of his brothers resided in the year 1765, when he first sought this secluded spot. Two summers I spent with him here, and I never spent any with more advantage. Men who have sedulously attended to the profits of trade, and who by industry and penury are enabled to retire on their fortunes, are more generally objects of compassion than of envy: if they live, it is to themselves; for want of early and rational cultivation of the mind, they have acquired one solitary fordid idea, and when they have placed themselves out of the enjoyment of it, life becomes a burthen, and retirement painful. It was not so with Dr. FOTHERGILL; he had numerous important duties to discharge, which incessant occupation in town had obliged him to defer: here he attempted to lessen the applications of the wealthy, who followed him for his advice, by refusing any gratuity; they had it in their power to apply elsewhere: the poor he never relinquished; and in this place of retreat he devoted one day in the week, to attend at Middlewich, the next market-town, and to give his advice gratis to them without hesitation; when
he

he sometimes favoured me in being the Amanuensis of what he dictated, and made me a witness of his philanthropy, as well as medical skill.

From his garden at Upton, he sent duplicates of plants to Lea-hall, and there revived and extended Horticulture, where it had long lain dormant. Here he arranged his medical observations; for which his memory will be respected, as long as fact and rational experiment direct the professors of the healing art. From hence he maintained a communication with most parts of the civilized world: Europeans, whom the spirit of commerce had prompted to visit distant regions, conveyed to him, through various channels, the rare productions which occurred in the course of their travels. Few maritime persons of this country but had experienced his salutary assistance; our trans-atlantic brethren in particular, both on the American continent and in the islands, had either immediately, or by their friends, been acquainted with his medical character; for in cases that had proved rebellious to domestic aid, and which admitted of delay, no person was more frequently

quently consulted: and though in his language there was a precision, with conciseness, that contained much in few words, yet the multitude of applications with which he was surrounded admitted of no leisure, for his leisure was only the variation of useful employment. His domestic correspondence, or consultations within the kingdom, were alone sufficiently extensive for ordinary occupation; but great as these avocations might be, and great they certainly were, they bore but a small proportion to the time and attention constantly devoted to the Society at large, of which he was a member, and which, though united in principle amongst each other, admitted of contingencies that demanded attention, influence, and abilities; which few men combined in a more ample degree than Dr. FOTHERGILL did, or exerted them more ardently upon all interesting occasions: at the same time, he never neglected the tender offices of private friendship in the most enlarged and beneficent sense. Among his familiar correspondents, besides his own relations, Dr. Percival of Manchester, Dr. Falconar of Bath, Dr. Dobson of Liverpool,
Dr.

Dr. Haygarth of Chester, Dr. Ash of Birmingham, Dr. Anthony Fothergill late of Northampton, Dr. Priestley, Henry Zouch of Sandal, Dr. Johnstone of Kidderminster, Professor Hope of Edinburgh, the late Dr. Pemberton of Warrington, enjoyed an honourable place; and I may add, that I consider it as one of the most pleasing circumstances of my life, that I have the privilege of introducing myself in this distinguished group. But among all his contemporaries, Cuming, the learned Dr. Cuming of Dorchester, shared his most unrestrained confidence: they had been colleagues at the college of Edinburgh, and intimate fellow-students, and parted with reluctance to occupy different stations in the kingdom; but their frequent communication by writing was interrupted only by death: their correspondence was long maintained in easy and classical Latin, for which few were better qualified than these twin friends. The departed Russell, the accurate author of the History of Aleppo, was their early associate, and continued the chain of friendship to the time of his decease; it was then that Dr. FOTHERGILL, in the loss of Russell, wished to have his surviving

associate

associate nearer his bosom, and urged Dr. Cuming to remove to the metropolis, to enter into that scene of business, and amplitude of emolument, which his abilities must soon have commanded. After the warmest invitation from Dr. FOTHERGILL, *his Cuming**, for with this tender expression he addressed him, with a calm philosophy, that knew how to estimate the *summum bonum* of life, disinterestedly condescends to enjoy the comparatively private but tranquil scenes of life, in preference to hurry and pecuniary advantages; a physician, who has been for a series of years conversant with the complaints and distresses of thousands of families, must necessarily have acquired many intimate ties.—And here I may particularly introduce a name, which, like

* I am much indebted to this learned and amiable physician, for numerous anecdotes of the subject of my biography; but with a modesty characteristic of true greatness of mind, he has suggested his remarks with a diffidence, which I believe no one has less occasion to plead: in one letter with which I was favoured, when speaking of his deceased FOTHERGILL, he classically enjoins me “always keep in view that you are describing the magnitude, density, distance, and orbit of a *primary planet*; and when my name is to be introduced, let me appear only as an *attendant satellite*.”

Dr.

Dr. FOTHERGILL's, had long been distinguished for virtue and ample generosity: David Barclay, a descendant of the great Apologist, was his bosom friend, to whom the Doctor entrusted his nearest and dearest concerns; and he could not have selected any person more worthy of his confidence and friendship *.

It would be difficult to trace his pen through all the various subjects of utility on which it was employed, during the time, which was about two months, that he appropriated to leisure in his annual retreat into Cheshire: he has to my knowledge wrote six hours † in the day successively, and he seldom wrote but for private information or public instruction; even his journies into the country, and his returns to the city, presented some striking observations to his inquisitive mind, that afforded improvement in agriculture, or useful reflections on life and manners. On his return from one of his latest excursions to Lea-hall, by the way of Buxton, partly

* I am likewise particularly obliged to David Barclay for many very important communications respecting Dr. FOTHERGILL.

† Letter to the Editor, 14th September 1771.

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on account of his sister's health, his mind was here, as in every other situation of life, intent on promoting schemes of public good; he suggested the means of rendering these celebrated Waters more beneficial, by pointing out improvements in the use of them, with more ease and convenience to the patients *, and I believe they are now carrying into execution.

With North America his correspondence was extensive †; his name was dear to the

* Letter to the Editor, 4th October 1779.

† Among these may be enumerated the British Linnæus; Benjamin Franklin; Cadwallader Colden, formerly governor of New York; Dr. Chalmers, of Charles-town; the Pembertons, of Philadelphia; and the late Major John Pickering, of Tortola: and now I mention him, I may be indulged to shed a tear to his memory. He was in early life brought up to a mechanical employment, but by strength of genius, and dint of self-exertion, he acquired a competent knowledge of English, and an extensive acquaintance with mathematics; by industry he became possessed of a large tract of uncultivated land, and by perseverance he covered it with Canes and Cotton, and gradually rose to be one of the wealthiest planters in the West Indies. He was about his fortieth year made governor of the island of Tortola, and held the rank of major in the insular militia: at length he publicly professed the religious

the inhabitants: his father had thrice traversed that continent in the service of religion;

religious principles of the Quakers, and relinquished all his civil and military honours and employments. He afterwards rarely attended the courts of judicature, unless he thought some poor person, some orphan or widow, was oppressed by some more powerful neighbour; when he voluntarily attended, and publicly pleaded the cause of the weak, if he deemed them oppressed; and his justice and weight were such as generally preponderated.

I frequently accompanied him to his plantations; through which as he passed, his numerous negroes saluted him in a loud chorus or song, which they continued as long as he remained in sight. I was also a melancholy witness of their attachment to him after his death: he expired suddenly, and when few of his friends were near him; I remember I had hold of his hand when this fatal period arrived; but he had scarcely expired his last breath, before it was known to his slaves, and instantly about 500 of them surrounded his house, and insisted upon seeing their master: with this they commenced a dismal and mournful yell, which was communicated from one plantation to another, till the whole island was in agitation, and crowds of negroes were accumulating around us. Distressed as I was with the loss of my relation and friend, I could not be insensible to the danger of a general insurrection; or if they entered the house, which was constructed of wood, and mounted into his chamber, there was danger of its falling by their weight, and crushing us in its ruins. In this dilemma, I had resolution enough to secure the

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doors,

ligion; and his brother Samuel, whose memory I deeply reverence, had followed the pious example of their once venerable parent. Many families, from the fame of his medical skill, crossed the Atlantic, to place themselves under his care: by such opportunities he gratified his inquisitive mind, and acquired a minute acquaintance with the disposition of the inhabitants, and the qualities of their soil, which enabled him to suggest various improvements in Horticulture, Rural Oeconomy, Agriculture, and Commerce. With his friend Peter Collinson, he encouraged the cultivation of the Vine, with the introduction of such exotic vegetables as might be usefully transplanted to different regions of that extensive continent: he

doors, and thereby prevent sudden intrusion; after these precautions, I addressed them through a window, assuring them, that if they would enter the house in companies only of twelve at a time, they should all be admitted to see their deceased master, and that the same lenient treatment of them should still be continued: to this they assented, and in a few hours quiet was restored; but it affected me to see with what silent, sullen, fixed melancholy, they departed from the remains of this venerable man: he died in 1768, aged about 60 years. His only surviving son, an amiable young gentleman, resides in England.

laboured,

laboured, with others, for a series of years, and at length successfully, to abolish the Slave-Trade among their own brethren: no man valued personal Liberty with more commendable enthusiasm, and few exerted their influence more strenuously for it, in favour of the miserable captives of Africa. On the North American continent, negro slavery will be gradually annihilated; but in the West India islands, where there are few Europeans, and where the heat, which is intense, conduces to indolence, the traffic of rational beings is pursued with vigour, and will probably be continued till the pecuniary interests of Europeans can be diverted into another channel. To effect this, he suggested the cultivation of the Sugar-Cane upon the continent of Africa, where it seems to have been indigenous, and thrives luxuriantly; and that the natives should be employed as servants for hire, and not as slaves compelled to labour by the dread of torture. Such a plan, indeed, was formerly suggested by one of the most powerful princes of Guinea. After the king of Dahomè had conquered the kingdom of Whidah, in the year 1727, he was

so bent upon the execution of his plan, as to send Bullfinch Lambe, his prisoner, whom he had loaded with favours, to the court of Great Britain, to engage its commerce and support. Upon this occasion, he presented his ambassador with 80 slaves, and 320 ounces of gold, to bear his expences, and to induce him to return; but Lambe, after he had possession of so much wealth, settled in Barbadoes, and never reached Europe, or further interested himself in the project of his generous benefactor. The richness of the soil, the plenty of provisions, the convenience of carriage, and many other considerations, strongly support the opinion of cultivating the Cane on the African continent *.

A man

* On a subject so very interesting, let it not be thought ostentatious, if I take the liberty of communicating the sentiments I could not avoid feeling in my own case, and the conduct which, as their natural and necessary consequence, they no less irresistibly produced. It is an instance given, not to support a claim to peculiar merit, but merely to shew what every one, whose heart is not hardened by acts of oppression, nor actuated by the love of money, must be disposed to feel, and think, and act, in a similar situation.

The repeated proofs of fidelity and love which I received

A man who could thus act with a principle of tenderness which realized the Roman precept, *Homo sum, et nihil humani à me alienum puto*, could not be insensible to the near and social endearments of friendship: a physician, in particular, whose time and powers are devoted to restoring health to his fellow-creatures, to removing grief and misery, and substituting comfort and happiness, must naturally have his mind humanized to the most tender sensibilities, and animated with those joys which Nature annexes to the power of doing good: his

ceived from my own people, gave me at length so settled a confidence in their integrity, that, without the least apprehension of danger, I have frequently found that I had left not only my liberty, but my life, entirely at their disposal. The beneficence of power, and the gratitude of dependence, form an union of interests that never fails to heighten mutual regard: my own happiness became at length so closely connected with the happiness of my negroes, that I could no longer withhold from them the natural privilege of freedom, which Heaven had conferred upon me; I therefore delivered them from bondage, and thus restored them to the character of beings, into whom the Author of Nature, and Giver of all Good, has breathed the breath of life. See Benezet's Historical Account of Guinea, &c. Philadelphia, 1771. London, 1772. 12mo.

regard to his friends is expressed with officious and watchful care, and is returned with those lenient endearments which constitute unaffected friendship, and those felicities of life which remove or soften its pains.

“ A physician,” says Dr. Gregory, (who might be supposed to have drawn his picture from Dr. FOTHERGILL, had not his own afforded the same excellent model) “ has numberless opportunities of giving that relief to distress, not to be purchased by the wealth of India. But besides the good which a physician has it often in his power to do, in consequence of skill in his profession, there are many occasions that call for his assistance as a man, as a man who feels for the misfortunes of his fellow-creatures. In this respect he has many opportunities of displaying patience, goodness, generosity, compassion, and all the gentle virtues that do honour to human nature.”

“ I come now to mention the moral qualities peculiarly required in the character of a physician. The chief of these is, humanity; that sensibility of heart,

which makes us feel for the distresses of our fellow-creatures, and which of consequence incites us in the most powerful manner to relieve them. Sympathy produces an anxious attention to a thousand little circumstances that may tend to relieve the patient; an attention which money can never purchase: hence the inexpressible comfort of having a friend for a physician. Sympathy naturally engages the affection and confidence of a patient, which in many cases are of the utmost consequence to his recovery. If the physician possesses gentleness of manners, and a compassionate heart, and what Shakespeare so emphatically calls “*the milk of human kindness*,” the patient feels his approach like that of a guardian angel ministering to his relief; while every visit of a physician who is unfeeling, and rough in his manners, makes his heart sink within him, as at the presence of one who comes to pronounce his doom *.”

It is an adage, that friendship exists only among the virtuous: if virtue confers a presumptive claim to friendship, Dr. Fo-

* Lectures on the Duties and Qualifications of a Physician, pp. 8, 9; 19, 20.

THERGILL's title to it could not be controverted, and at this altar alone he lighted the sacred passion. "Sovereign benevolence," he observed*, "is more widely extended than the particular attachment, however reciprocal, that we call friendship. That the beloved disciple, that Lazarus, that others shared a peculiar regard from the Saviour of mankind, is evident; but still the principle was extended much farther, '*Ye are my friends, if ye do the will of him that sent me.*' This was the friendship, it is most evident, that the Gospel recommended—Loving the Great Creator above all things, our fellow-creatures for his sake, and, in peculiar situations, individuals for his and their own.—The friendships of Tully are beneath this kind of friendship; they did honour to human nature, and to its Author in a certain degree: a wider sphere was unknown to them, and as the attachments they formed were on the best foundations they knew, more was not to be expected. The Gospel amities are unlimited, they flow to all,

* Letter to Dr. Percival.

“ in proportion to that dilated benevolence
 “ which the Gospel only divulges. It states,
 “ that we are friends to one another, friends
 “ to the great Author of our dearest know-
 “ ledge, in proportion as our lives are de-
 “ voted, to that great Will which consti-
 “ tutes the noblest part of the Christian
 “ character.”

A mind actuated by these sentiments of amity, could not be deficient in actions of beneficence. Introduced by his profession into scenes which equally excite sympathy, and demand succour, he was ever accessible to distress. To the inferior clergy Dr. Hird gives the following examples of his generous philanthropy, whom he considered as more particularly the objects of his liberality and attention: “ Being brought up in that line of education, which, in the opinion of the world, precludes bodily labour, and to which the idea of the gentleman is annexed, without a competency to support the character; to many of these I am an evidence he was a kind friend and a private benefactor; not only by his advice in personal distress, but by his purse on severely trying occasions.—Nay, so cordial

was

was his humanity towards these, that, on a friend's hinting to him, whilst he was in the country, that his favours were not marked by propriety of distinction (the gentleman from whom he had refused his fee being placed in high rank in the church, with an independent fortune) he returned a ready explanation of his principle of action: " I had rather," said the Doctor, " return
" the fee of a gentleman with whose rank
" I am not perfectly acquainted, than run
" the risk of taking it from a man who
" ought perhaps to be the object of my
" bounty." Such was the noble style of this most excellent man's way of thinking."

" The humane reader will feel the finest springs of his affections moved by the following anecdotes, given me by a clergyman of high rank, who reveres the memory of Dr. FOTHERGILL, and places his obligations to him, in a very trying season, near to his heart. A friend of his, a man of a worthy character, who has at this time an income of about one hundred pounds a year, church preferment, was, in the early part of his life, seated in London upon a curacy of fifty pounds per annum, with a wife and
a nume-

a numerous family.—An epidemical disease, which was at that time prevalent, seized upon his wife, and five of his children : in this scene of distress his heart was instantly turned to the Doctor, but dared not apply for his assistance, from a consciousness of his being unable to reward him for his attendance. A friend, who knew his situation, kindly offered to accompany him to the Doctor's, and give him his fee : they took advantage of his hour of audience, and after a description of the several cases, the fee was offered, and refused ; but a note was taken of his place of residence. The Doctor called assiduously the next, and every succeeding day, till his attendance was no longer necessary. The curate, anxious to return some grateful mark of the sense he entertained of his services, strained every nerve to accomplish it ; but his astonishment was not to be described, when, instead of receiving the money he offered, with apologies for his situation, the Doctor put ten guineas into his hand, desiring him to apply to him without diffidence in future difficulties."

“ Although, amidst the diffusion of his favours,

favours, he too frequently met with ungrateful returns, yet he could never allow instances of this sort to check the ardour of his mind in doing all the good he could to others; and even to those who returned ingratitude for kindness, his charity continued still patient, hoping all things. It was his common expression, when he found his favours misapplied, or himself imposed upon, “ I had much rather that my favours should fall upon many undeserving objects, than that one truly deserving should escape my notice*.”

That charity which is not influenced by the motive of human praise, and that beneficence which administers present relief to obviate present misery, wait not for those occasions only, where their consequences are most extensive, lest subordinate afflictions, which are the most frequent, should remain neglected and unsuccoured. Of little acts of charity, which he daily exercised, volumes might be transcribed; for death, which encreases our veneration for the good (*Virtutem sublatam ex oculis quærimus invidi*)

* Affectionate Tribute, page 7, 8, and 9—with some little variation in the language.

JOHN FOTHERGILL, M.D. lxxvii

and disposes the living to warmer expressions of gratitude, has brought me acquainted with innumerable instances of his generosity. There is more misery than affluence, and more affluence than liberality; and wherever the latter unite, there will be expectation: situated, therefore, as he was, in a conspicuous point of view, where his character for liberality was universally known, various species of importunity augmented the channels through which his bounty flowed.

There is a condition of people, whose distresses are much greater than are generally imagined, and whose patience under suffering makes them less conspicuous, though no less deserving of protection, than the importunate poor. They have known better days, and consequently feel more poignantly the reverse of their condition; their reluctance in complaining, often reduces them very low in health and spirits before they are discovered, and thereby disease is accumulated upon want. From the retreats of anxiety flow an infinitude of bodily distresses; of this he was tenderly sensible; and while this modest indigence interested
his

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his sympathy, it had access to his bounty, in such a manner as was most likely to blunt the acuteness of distress ; for obligations are more grateful from the manner in which they are conferred, than from their magnitude. To preclude the necessity of acknowledgment in such minds, he endeavoured to suggest some motive for his bounty, that might afford the receiver the merit of a claimant, and the liberal donor that of discharging a debt : after prescribing for such individuals, he remembered that there is such a distemper as hunger, in the catalogue of human infirmities, and not unfrequently conferred his bounty under the pretence of defraying the expence of their medicines ; for that charity which is not exercised to make usury of fame, silently diffuses the oil of gladness over the troubled commotions of the heart, and enjoys the private retreat of unmixed happiness.

One instance, among numbers, I am urged to communicate here, as death now equally precludes the power of bestowing, and the gratitude of acknowledging, future bounties : Captain Carver's is a name known
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in the annals of misery, to which he was reduced by long-continued want; disease, its natural consequence, gave him access to Dr. FOTHERGILL; and I am informed by his widow, that as often as he applied for medical relief, the Doctor as often accompanied his prescription with a liberal donation. But Captain Carver was not an importunate solicitor; the mind not hardened by familiarity of refusal, or that hath not acquired, by frequent struggles, the art of suppressing its emotions, possesses that diffidence which is the inseparable associate of worth. Betwixt diffidence and want, many were the struggles of Captain Carver; but, overcome at length by the repeated acts of the Doctor's generosity, a jealous suspicion of becoming troublesome to his benefactor, determined him to prefer that want, and the deprivation of the necessaries of life, which put him out of the power of choice; for death soon triumphs over famine.—What a conflict of sullen greatness does this tragedy exhibit! When his fate was communicated to the Doctor, how tender was his expression! “ If I had
 “ known

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“ known his distress, he should not thus
“ have died * !”

* The king has since graciously condescended to allow the widow Carver a liberal annuity. The unfortunate husband was only known to me on his death-bed. In the early stages of his disease he was able to wait upon Dr. FOTHERGILL; but in the progress of it, being confined to his bed, the Doctor requested me to visit the Captain at his lodgings; and my first interview was within three days of his decease. It was after his funeral that I felt myself more immediately interested in the succour of the widow and orphans. As the Captain died penniless, he was buried, to avoid expence, in the poor's ground, a part of the church-yard usually appropriated to the abject poor. When I reflected upon the utility of his Travels, I considered him as a public loss, and his offspring as the children of the public; and I presented the widow with a few pounds, to clothe and feed herself and children: but the money, thus designed to satisfy her hunger, she employed otherwise; she had the corpse of her husband taken out of the poor's ground, and buried in ground containing the ashes of higher company, and over it she raised a decent monument to his memory. His Travels, however, will prove a more durable monument than stone; and, though the dust with which we are mixed avails not to the living or to the dead, yet I was sensibly touched with this instance of post-mortuary affection, and have since endeavoured to mitigate the miseries of a mind endowed with such tender sensibilities.

He

He that is cordially disposed to do good, will not find his beneficence disappointed for want of occasions to exercise it; for distress appears in a thousand shapes, and affords the affluent as many opportunities of augmenting their own happiness, by enlarging that of others. Were there no misery in the world, there would be few occasions for the exercise of those generous virtues, which beget gratitude and thankfulness on one hand, and the tender emotions of sympathy and humanity on the other. Conscious as we are, that no one is exempt from the painful vicissitudes of life, and that the blessed to-day may to-morrow experience a bitter reverse, the distressed are ever objects of commiseration, and should raise in our hearts that kind of compassion, and obtain that aid from us, which we should look for were such afflictions suffered to overtake us.

So Dr. FOTHERGILL reflected, and so he consistently acted; for he was almost incessantly suggesting methods of mitigating, not only abject poverty, but likewise that species of poignant sensibility which the reverse of better days naturally inflicts.

Feelings of this nature presented to him a plan for relieving the distresses of the lower classes of the people, by lessening the price of provisions. Where the profit of labour is barely adequate to the expence of subsistence, from unfavourable seasons, or from whatever cause a temporary scarcity of the necessaries of life may originate, the severity is peculiarly felt by the poor: when land fails of its usual product in any one general article of diet, every other being proportionally more demanded, the price of the whole will be enhanced. Such a national scarcity can only be obviated by importation from another country, at the expence of money or some other equivalent value, and hence constitutes only a partial remedy; but could a substitute for national scarcity be found, which is not the product of land, such a substitute would afford the most effectual means of obviating impending distress; and this the ocean affords, which barter its produce for labour alone. If the inhabitants of a country, surrounded by a sea abounding with fish, were accustomed to live upon this food one day in the week, it is evident that the same land would support

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support one seventh more inhabitants, without enhancing the necessaries of diet. If our fisheries contributed to subsist the inhabitants of Spain, Portugal, and Italy, whilst our own poor were at times wanting bread, was it not true policy to encourage the more general use of this cheap and dietetic article?

At the approach of the severe winter of 1767, Dr. FOTHERGILL proposed a scheme, and liberally contributed to raise a fund for ensuring its success, to purchase fish at a wholesale cheap price, and to dispose of them at a small loss, till the whole subscription was expended, for the benefit of the poor and middle ranks, of housekeepers. The society, who supported this scheme, which was continued to the year 1770, in the same manner purchased potatoes in Lancashire, or other cheap markets, and conveyed them by water to the metropolis, where there is more poverty, as well as more wealth, than in any other part of the kingdom; and, to countenance this diet, he purchased from the warehouses, opened for the sale of these articles, the provisions of his own table, once at least a week. If this conduct deserves to

be recorded as an example for posterity, I shall be approved for introducing likewise the respectable names of David Barclay, John Barclay, Daniel Mildred, Samuel Hoare, Osgood Hanbury, Capel Hanbury, John Harman, John Strettell, Isaac Walker, Zachary Cockfield, Thomas Corbyn, and William Archer, as examples of beneficence, who co-operated in this patriotic and humane undertaking.

To break a monopoly which had highly enhanced the price of fresh fish in all the markets about London, he first suggested the scheme of bringing fish by land-carriage; and though it did not succeed in every respect, it tended to destroy a supposed combination, which has never since arisen to the same alarming extent; and may probably long be remembered, as a project which, though now suspended, may be renewed at a future time, should the same complaint again occur.

To render bread much cheaper to the poor, though equally as wholesome as the best wheaten, Dr. FOTHERGILL proposed a method of making it with one part of potatoes, and three parts of household flour; and to encourage its use, he caused pro-
per

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per directions to be distributed among the bakers and others in the city. I have often eat this bread, and were the price equal, I should prefer it to that made of the finest flour.

A wholesome bread may likewise be made, by mixing the fine flour of Indian corn with that of wheat, in equal proportions; which, if rightly managed, the colour will be about the same as the standard wheaten bread, and, before the present contest with America, might have been sold about two-pence in the quartern loaf cheaper than the fine wheaten, when that may be at eight-pence per quartern; and, should days of peace return, will doubtless be again equally cheap.

No substance, used as aliment, has been more fully and satisfactorily proved to be nutritious than this corn, which was once imported hither in considerable quantities from North America, where it forms a large share of the diet of both the rich and the poor: it is light and easy of digestion, and at the same time affords much nourishment, as those most addicted to it endure exercise and labour with superior ease; and it has likewise been particularly remarked, that

horses fed with it will travel farther, and bear the fatigues of a long journey much better, than when fed with any other food whatever. It was formerly much used about London for the feeding of hogs, and it has rendered their flesh whiter, sweeter, and better flavoured, than when fed with any thing else hitherto used; and for black cattle, deer, and poultry, there is no food superior to this grain.

The people of North America dress the flour into various forms, which it is as well calculated for as that of wheat; in the West Indies it constitutes a large share of the food of the negroes, who, perhaps, undergo as much hardship and labour as most of the sons of men.

The flour of this corn possesses, to most, an agreeable sweet flavour; so that some persons, who have accustomed themselves to eat the bread made of it, find a difficulty in returning to the use of any other. Great care is requisite in grinding the corn, as a part of the interior edge of the grain is composed of a ligneous spongy substance, the middle of which is of a dark brown colour, and of a bitter taste, which, if
ground

ground into the flour, produces a disagreeable taste; to avoid which, the mill-stones should be set so wide as but just to burst the thick or farinaceous part of the grain, which should be passed through a sieve, in order to separate the above-mentioned bitterish substance; the grain should then be ground with the stones set to render it sufficiently fine: by this precaution the flour is as white as that of the finest wheat, and full as pleasant to eat; it possesses, like potatoes, the quality of preserving the bread, made from a mixture of it, in a moist state for many days, which, at least in warm weather, is no inconsiderable advantage*.

Though numerous rivulets, when united, constitute a considerable current; yet, various as were the channels of the Doctor's bounty in the minor departments of beneficence, they formed but a small proportion of the ample income which flowed

* Whilst I am considering the means of relieving the poor by a healthy substitute for wheaten bread, I cannot but recommend the perusal of a performance lately published, intitled, Observations on such nutritive Vegetables as may be substituted in the Place of ordinary Food, extracted from the French of M. Parmentier. 8vo. Murray. London, 1783.

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from the extensive exercise of his profession. Those acts of beneficence, where, like the oak which germinates from an acorn, great effects arise from small causes, may be classed under minor departments, when referred to him, whose liberality flowed into so many wide and distant channels : seldom was any useful subscription set on foot, either in this kingdom or its dependencies, without his name standing foremost in the list, as many of the schools at home and abroad can gratefully evidence : in public calamities, as in instances of private distress, but in a more enlarged manner, the sympathy of his heart expanded the bounty of his purse—

His bosom Truth's fair palace ; and his arms
Benevolent, the harbour of mankind !

BROOKE's *Gust. Vasa.*

A man who devoted his labour and fortune to public good, without ostentation, may have raised many monuments of public benefit, that are too remote to be clearly recollected, or too recent to be fully ascertained. In the late war, when the success of our arms had filled the prisons with captives, and reduced our enemies to a state too abject to administer support adequate to
the

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the misery of their own people, a national subscription was instituted, to feed and clothe these unfortunate victims of war; for a brave people, like the Persian Cyrus, deemed those no longer enemies whom they had vanquished *. In this noble undertaking Dr. FOTHERGILL bore a considerable share: the Society of Quakers, who scarcely constitute the two hundredth part of the nation, raised above one fourth of the whole subscription; towards which he was an ample contributor, and was appointed one of the Committee † for conducting and appropriating this national bounty; of which no instance of equal urbanity was ever recorded in the heroic ages of Greece or Rome ‡.

The

* Norborn Berkeley, afterwards Lord Botetourt, then colonel of the militia, who guarded the French prisoners at Winchester, was struck with their distress, and was the first who proposed a subscription for their relief.

† The benevolent Thomas Corbyn, with the late Richard How, were likewise of this Committee.

‡ Dr. Johnson, in his noble preface to the Report of the above Committee, justly remarks, that “new scenes of misery make new impressions; and much of the
charity

The present unnatural war in America *
afforded a fresh example of popular misery,
and another instance of Dr. FOTHERGILL's
beneficence ;

* Whilst this sheet was in the press, the Preliminary Articles of Peace were signed, on the 20th of January 1783.

charity which produced these donations, may be supposed to have been generated by a species of calamity never known amongst us before. Some imagine that the laws have provided all necessary relief in common cases, and remit the poor to the care of the public; some have been deceived by fictitious misery, and are afraid of encouraging imposture; many have observed want to be the effect of vice, and consider casual almsgivers as patrons of idleness. But all these difficulties vanish in the present case: we know that for the prisoners of war there is no legal provision; we see their distress, and are certain of its cause; we know that they are poor and naked, and poor and naked without crime."

" But it is not necessary to make any concessions. The opponents of this charity must allow it to be good, and will not easily prove it not to be the best. That charity is best, of which the consequences are most extensive: the relief of enemies has a tendency to unite mankind in fraternal affection; to soften the acrimony of adverse nations, and dispose them to peace and amity: in the mean time, it alleviates captivity, and takes away something from the miseries of war. The rage of war, however mitigated, will always fill the world with ca-

beneficence; for his bounty flowed copiously into the channels of misery, wherever it existed. As the contention in America was embittered by reciprocal injuries, each contending party was more and more stimulated to acts of violence, till reiterated distresses had level'd most ranks of people into penury and want. To obviate these ravages of intestine war, a subscription was opened among the Quakers of Europe, for the service of their fellow-subjects beyond the Atlantic. If Dr. FOTHERGILL did not first propose, he was certainly one of the most early and liberal advocates for this generous subscription. Its application was not confined to any sect; it was extended to the miserable of every denomination; for, under affliction, we ought to be brethren by sympathy. But to describe the

lamity and horror: let it not then be unnecessarily extended; let animosity and hostility cease together; and no man be longer deemed an enemy, than while his sword is drawn against us."

"The effects of these contributions may, perhaps, reach still further. Truth is best supported by virtue: we may hope from those who feel or who see our charity, that they shall no longer detest as heresy that religion, which makes its professors the followers of HIM, who has commanded us to "do good to them that hate us."

Doctor

Doctor in every act of his beneficence, would constitute an epitome of human woe counteracted by godlike generosity.

I hope it will not be deemed a partial attachment to sect, should I indulge myself in a digression not immediately connected with the object of my narrative. Considering the general philanthropy of a Society of which Dr. FOTHERGILL was a distinguished member, it may seem strange that it should have obtained the obloquy and invidious reflections of persons of all denominations, when a little enquiry would have afforded sufficient reasons for adopting more favourable sentiments. A cause, and one of the most difficult to eradicate, is the impressions imbibed in early life, prejudicial to this Society. No book, perhaps, is at present more generally read in schools than Guthrie's Geographical Grammar; and, so far as it respects the religious principles of the Quakers, it is composed of errors and misrepresentations, with which the writer would have been ashamed to have charged any of its members: but early impressions being most permanent, and these prejudices being interwoven in school education,

education, become familiar to youth, and grow up with them, and consequently possessing no novelty, they excite no future investigation ; and thus opinions, founded upon misrepresentation, are admitted as habitual and established truths. What is different from the general habitude of mankind, will not acquire general applause : it is not flattering to self-love to admit, much less to approve, opinions which controvert its own ; and those of the Quakers consist of such as were calculated to obtain popular obloquy. The whole tenor of their principles being contrary to war, they could not therefore raise the esteem of the military ; as they had no priests, and considered the exercise of the Gospel to be free, they could not conciliate the affections of the clergy ; in like manner, as they discouraged going to law, they could not expect the favour of the professors of law : and thus the principal sources, upon which the public opinion must depend, were naturally adverse to a Society, whose principles counteracted their views and their emoluments.

Whoever is bold enough to dissent from popular opinion, is reprobated as obstinate
or

corded in history, who never exercised that power to persecute the weak !

What is familiar and near us, excites little scrutiny or investigation ; but the time may come, when a wise legislator may descend to enquire, by what medium a whole Society, in both the Old and New World, is made to think and act with uniformity for upwards of a century ! By what polity, without emolument from government, they have become the only people on earth free from poverty ! By what œconomy they have thus prevented beggary and want among any of their members, whilst the nation groans under taxes for the poor ! Then perhaps their fanaticism may not appear to the public in a worse point of view than has been exhibited by a modern writer on the continent, whose sentiments are as follow. After giving a view of their religious principles, he says, “ * Après cela qu’on range
 “ tant qu’on voudra les Quakers parmi les
 “ fanatiques ; ce sont toujours des fana-
 “ tiques bien estimables. Je ne puis m’em-
 “ pêcher

* Let those, who please, consider the Quakers as fanatics ; they are such fanatics as always merit esteem.

“ pêcher de déclarer, que je les estime
 “ un peuple vraiment grand, vertueux, plein
 “ d’industrie, d’intelligence, et de sagesse.
 “ Ce sont des gens animés des principes
 “ les plus étendus de beneficence, qu’il y
 “ ait jamais eu sur la terre. Leur charité
 “ se porte sur toute la race du genre hu-
 “ main, ne refusant à personne les misé-
 “ ricordes des dieux. Ils reconnoissent
 “ publiquement que la liberté universelle
 “ est due à tout le monde. Ils condam-
 “ nent les impôts, et néanmoins ils les
 “ payent, et s’y soumettent sans murmure.
 “ Enfin, c’est peut-être le seul parti chez
 “ les Chrétiens, dont la pratique du corps
 “ entier reponde constamment à ses prin-
 “ cipes. Je n’ai point de honte d’avouer
 “ que

As to myself, I cannot but acknowledge, that I consider them as a great and virtuous people, industrious, intelligent, and wise, and animated with the most extensive principles of beneficence that have ever yet appeared. Their charity is extended to the whole human race, denying no one a godlike compassion. They publicly acknowledge that liberty is due to all; and though they condemn imposts (ecclesiastical taxes, and those for carrying on war) they submit to them without murmuring. They are, perhaps, the only Society of Christians, whose practice and principles amongst all its members constantly correspond. I am not ashamed to own, that I have repeatedly perused, with
 singular

“ que j’ai lu et relu avec un plaisir singulier
 “ l’Apologie du Quakérisme par Robert
 “ Barclay ; il m’a convaincu que c’est,
 “ tout calculé, le système le plus raison-
 “ nable et le plus parfait qu’on ait encore
 “ imaginé.” *Encyclopedie Fr. T. 13.*
 p. 648.

He that so arduously and successfully
 exerted his abilities and fortune in pro-
 moting private and public good, was, upon
 numerous occasions, a generous patron of
 Literature: though above courting the adu-
 lation of authors, he endeavoured to direct
 the genius and improve the writings of
 persons of useful talents: without leisure
 to arrange and publish so much of his own
 experience as the public desired, he sought
 opportunities of suggesting to others such
 objects of enquiry as might prove most
 beneficial to the community. Those who
 are the most capable of instructing man-
 kind, are oftentimes, from a diffidence
 which associates with true excellence, most

singular pleasure, Robert Barclay’s Apology for the
 Quakers ; and I am convinced, take it all together, that
 it is the most rational and perfect system that hath ever
 yet been conceived.

backward of imparting instruction. Cleghorn, the ingenious and inquisitive Cleghorn, who practised long and successfully at Minorca, returned to England without having arranged his important history of the diseases of this island, which he afterwards did at the suggestion of Dr. FOTHERGILL *. These physicians, to whom the world has been so much indebted, as they had been early colleagues in study, so they continued intimate friends, emulating each other in medical researches. The latter, when he first read what Cleghorn had effected, speaks of his labours with that liberal spirit of approbation, which envies not the laudable actions of another: “†Mi-
“ raberis proculdubio Cleghornii nostri
“ industriam;

* The most material parts of Dr. Cleghorn's excellent publication were communicated to Dr. FOTHERGILL, in letters from Minorca, dated in the years 1742 and 1744, methodically digested, and written in pure, elegant, and classical Latin, which language he wrote with great fluency. These letters Dr. FOTHERGILL transmitted to Dr. Cuming, who was likewise an intimate correspondent of Dr. Cleghorn's, as well as of Dr. Russell's.

† Thou wilt no doubt admire the industry of our friend

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“ industriam; in orbis etiam angulo situs
“ majores facit progressus quam nostrorum
“ quivis, quibus etiam non desunt idonea
“ studiorum adminicula. Alius itaque alium
“ excitemus, ut ejus insequamur vestigia,
“ tantoque viro dignos evademus amicos.”

To Dr. Russell, his early associate, and afterwards his correspondent at Aleppo, and whose life he has commemorated with the tenderness of fraternal affection; to the amiable Russell, he urged the importance of an historical narrative of that city and its environs; and which the latter executed, with a perspicuity that will hand down the work, and the reputation of its author, to distant posterity*.

Within

friend Cleghorn; who, situated in a corner of the world, has made greater progress than any of us, who even do not want the proper aids of study. Let us therefore stimulate one another, that we may follow his footsteps, and become the worthy friends of so great a man. Letter to Dr. Cuming, 14th August 1742.

* From the time he left England, to his return in February 1755, we had maintained, says Dr. FOTHERGILL, a regular correspondence. I could not forbear mentioning to him repeatedly, how acceptable a more accurate account of Aleppo would be to this nation,

Within the extent of my knowledge, similar instances might be largely multiplied; and they equally point out his generous ardour in the promotion of useful knowledge: in many literary performances, indeed, his assistance has acquired public acknowledgment, as the respectable names of a RUTTY, a MACBRIDE, a FALCONAR, and many others, will testify. Few men of distinguished reputation pass through life with merely silent admiration; gratitude or respect will at length single them out as patrons of science; and dedications of just applause, or misapplied adulation, will follow: but as DR. FOTHERGILL was uniformly more desirous of doing good, than

and to all Europe; that no person would probably ever stand a chance of succeeding in it so happily as himself; that his long residence there, his knowledge of the language, the manners, customs, diseases of the place, the great credit he had acquired amongst all ranks, by an able, diligent, and disinterested exertion of his faculties, his influence over the Pascha, and the respect paid him by the Turks themselves, would facilitate every enquiry. He viewed the proposal in the same light, collected materials, made suitable enquiries, and has erected a lasting and honourable monument to his memory. *Life of Dr. Russell.*

of

of having it known, he was averse to dedications, and considered them as a species of literary pageantry, more productive of envy to the patron, than of advantage to the author. I was once with him at Leahall, when a gentleman, whose reputation justly afforded him the most honourable distinction, requested to address a work of intrinsic merit to the Doctor, and I well remember his reply:—" My friendship
 " will not be augmented by such a public
 " instance of respect: apply therefore to
 " some eminent person, whose friendship
 " may thus be conciliated; whereby," added he kindly, " an old friend may be
 " preserved, and a new one gained."

That immense work of Botany, wherein the pencil of Miller illustrated, in a style of unprecedented elegance, the sexual system of Linnæus, chiefly from the originals at Upton, was actually dedicated to the Doctor; and afterwards, with no little difficulty in recalling the copies, cancelled at his express sollicitation. Though he delighted to encourage ingenuity, he disliked to be told of it.

PURVER, the indefatigable translator of the Bible and Testament, by wonderful self-exertion, acquired an extensive knowledge of the languages requisite for this arduous labour; and at length effected, by the patronage, and solely by the patronage of Dr. FOTHERGILL, a literal translation of the Sacred Scriptures *: and though a tenaciousness in the learned author for provincial idiom, rendered this valuable translation less read and esteemed, yet, independent of idiomatic objections, it may justly be estimated among the principal productions of the century.

In the process of this narrative, I have often had occasion to reflect, that what is known cannot be immediately told. There are circumstances connected with the living, which delicacy forbids to record; or with the dead, whose ashes it were cruel to the surviving friends to molest: hence many a good man's actions are buried in oblivion. Such must be the lot of many a noble instance of Dr. FOTHERGILL's munificence.

* In two volumes folio, anno 1765.

I should even have passed over in silence that which the late Dr. Knight afforded, had it not been generally known, and recently revived by the classical pen of a respectable physician *. The Librarian of the British Museum, whose character was deservedly esteemed, by some speculations in mining, more plausible than productive, became so far involved in his circumstances, as to be obliged to apply to those he deemed his friends for pecuniary support ; but his application was received with coolness. In this dilemma, though he had enjoyed the personal acquaintance of Dr. FOTHERGILL, he could not have presumed upon making such a request, but from the compulsive motive of necessity. The ingenious Knight, with diffidence, told the Doctor what would render him once more a happy man. The answer given by the physician of philanthropy, whose heart never felt the distress of another without wishing to remove it, was short but expressive,—“ *I will then*

* Memoirs of the Life, and a View of the Character of the late Dr. FOTHERGILL; by G. Thompson, M.D.

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“ *make thee happy* *.” His was not that drop-like bounty, which pauses in its progress ; it was full, flowing, and benign † ; for I am informed, that in this instance it amounted to about a thousand guineas.

Nullus argento color est avaris,

Abdito terris—— ‡ HOR. lib. ii. od. 2.

Persons, whose moments are devoted to employments of profit, are rarely disposed to sacrifice private emolument to public good. Time, to a medical character of high reputation, is a lucrative reality ; and he that devotes a share of it to the benefit of the community, in that proportion sacrifices his private interest. It is rarely, indeed, that physicians depart from the routine of professional practice ; but Dr. FOTHERGILL, whose enlarged mind was capable of embracing every object of utility,

* The immense artificial loadstone, described in Dr. FOTHERGILL's Works, was the invention of Dr. Knight, and presented by the former to the Royal Society.

† See Dr. Hird's Affectionate Tribute, page 7.

‡ Gold hath no lustre of its own ;

It shines by temperate use alone. FRANCIS.

was

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was an exception : the punctuality of his conduct, and the perspicuity of his reflections, gave an activity to his mind to promote improvement and perfection in every thing around him. The crowded streets of the Metropolis, its superb edifices, and perpetual traffic, excite admiration in the most indifferent, whose attention may not have been attracted by more minute investigation ; but the active mind of our Associate, unrestrained in its survey of utility, was often engaged in detecting error and pointing out improvement in this splendid city, which he communicated to those concerned in its government, either immediately, or by letters in the public prints. His letters on subjects of police, and in other departments, could they be collected together, would constitute an ample and useful volume, calculated to instruct the magistrate, and inform the architect and tradesman. He condescended even to exert his influence in the improvement of the common pavement ; to widen the streets, and open new communications for the health and convenience of the citizens.

As he considered the easy and cheap conveyance

veyance of merchandize, and other articles of consumption, from various parts of the nation to and from the Metropolis, as of immense importance to the manufactures, trade, exports, and wealth of the city, he suggested the plan of bringing the northern navigations, which already unite Liverpool, Bristol, and Hull, into the vicinity of London, by new canals, the grand reservoir of which he projected to rise in Cold-bath-fields. In his fertile imagination, I have listened with pleasure to the familiar manner in which he delineated the facility of this important intercourse; and probably, when the great tendency of trade towards the north of this kingdom, from the advantage of navigable canals, shall have roused the citizens of London to protect and prosecute their own interests, such a project may be seriously revived, and effectually executed*.

Those only, who have acquired the habit of doing much in a little time, know how to estimate its value; and the œconomy of time, applied to the various concerns of

* See a judicious pamphlet, just published, intitled, *Considerations on the Idea of uniting the Rivers Thames and Severn*, 4to. 1782.

trade and commerce, admits of the most profitable balance in favour of industry and traffic. In this useful point of view, among many others, he considered easy communication through the streets of London as of singular importance in a mercantile city, and lamented the obvious deficiencies in this respect, which occurred in almost every part of London. From the great northern road the city is chiefly accessible by Smithfield and Bishopsgate-street; and from the former of these to the latter, there is no communication that conveniently admits of more than one carriage to pass at a time; whilst suitable avenues, with little expence, might have been formed, by an ample entrance from Moorfields to the Mansion-house, and from Islington to Blackfriars-bridge, in straight lines: this he projected; and, by the exertions of Charles Dingly, who constructed the saw-mills at Limehouse, in imitation of those at Sardam, it was near being accomplished. Black-friars-bridge, one of the first structures of the kind that human industry and judgment ever executed, and which covers the wealthiest stream in the universe, certainly de-

serves an avenue of some elegance, especially where elegance would necessarily be joined with utility.

Many other parts might be gradually improved, by seizing the opportunities of casual conflagrations, or the slow but more certain dilapidations of time, to widen the streets, or to improve the structure of new edifices ; and few opportunities of this kind escaped the Doctor's attention, and his consequent recommendation to the magistracy*.

Indeed, one of the most dreadful consequences of a large and close-built city, is the conflagrations which so frequently break out, and against the devastation of which no remedy of the legislature has yet been adequate ; nor perhaps ever will be, whilst, under the privilege of freedom, structures are raised, and employments carried on, in situations which true policy would interdict. Of these, sugar-houses, and the operations

* After the conflagration of Langdale's distillery, at the bottom of Holborn-hill, the Doctor took much pains to have the buildings, to be constructed on their ruins, thrown back, in a line with those on Holborn-hill ; but, laudable as his endeavours were, he laboured in vain.

in them, where much fuel is necessarily expended, afford striking examples; and in this point of view engaged the attention of the Doctor, who at different times proposed various modes of prevention. When the Minories was laid open, by pulling down the old houses, the situation appeared to him as very eligible for the construction of these and similar hazardous buildings, where the use of fire in quantity might endanger houses in their vicinity. Two letters upon this subject, though printed without his name, he told me were his productions; which I have inserted, as instances of his regard to objects of general utility*.

A cause

* GAZETTEER, December 30, 1768.

“ IN the compass of one week two sugar-houses, in the most populous parts of the city, have been destroyed by fire, and have spread desolation and terror in the neighbourhood.

“ I consider these edifices as built for destruction; there being more sugar-houses burnt down than any other houses of manufactory.

“ Whether this is owing to any fault in their construction, or to the ignorance, neglect, and stupidity of those who are employed in this business, I know not.

“ Ought

A cause of destruction, almost peculiar to great cities, and perhaps equally frequent and

“ Ought a well-governed city to permit such buildings to be erected as are attended with such dreadful consequences? Most certainly it ought not.

“ A gentleman, whose life is of great consequence to many, as well as to his family, lay extremely ill of a dangerous disorder: the terrible alarm of fire within a few doors made it necessary to take him out of his bed, and to carry him, half naked, to the first hospitable door where the family could think of getting admittance. His recovery was extremely doubtful before; this event will not lessen the hazard.

“ Shall families be stripped of their support, shall the public be deprived of useful members, shall distress and ruin be spread through a neighbourhood unnecessarily, and without any endeavour to prevent the like inconvenience for the future? Humanity, at least, speaks another language. Perhaps hearts, obdurate to every other sensation but that of gain, would pass through the ruins of the metropolis itself, without a sigh, or a wish for the prevention of such fatal accidents!—

“ The city shews, in many respects, an inclination for improvement; and I wish that no more sugar-houses might be suffered to be built in the city, nor those that are built tolerated beyond a certain time, that is, their present leases.

“ I would not presume to direct where these now necessary edifices ought to be built; but, as I think no person ought hastily to find fault with any thing, unless

and fatal as the foregoing, is the mode of interment of the bodies of the dead, and particularly

less he proposes a remedy, I take the liberty to suggest the following to the consideration of the public.

“ In the tract of ground that lies between the Minories and Poor Jewry-street, I think there is space enough now vacant, or likely to become so, on which as many sugar-houses might be erected as there are in the city.

“ Let an act of parliament be obtained to prohibit the future erection of any sugar-houses, except in this particular part. The scite would be very advantageous to the sugar-bakers themselves; it is near the water-side, and the conveyance to all parts of the town easy. Their fuel, their sugars, would cost less to be laid in here, than in most other places. Besides, the city would be eased, by this means, of one of the greatest nuisances that attends it, the sugar-carts; the unloading and loading of which cost more time to the passengers in carriages, than the brewers drays themselves; for most of the sugar-houses in the city are in narrow streets, yet in streets and passages much frequented: Bow-lane, Knight-rider-street, and some others, might be mentioned.

“ As the parliament is sitting, and the city of London may have occasion to apply on divers accounts, I wish they would be pleased, in conjunction with the insurance-offices, whose interest is at stake, to take the premises into consideration, and apply for an act to prevent the building or rebuilding of any more such works in the heart of the city, as in every respect they
are

particularly those of the poor; and which is still continued in this metropolis. In
some

are prejudicial; for the vast quantity of smoke they produce, and the filth attending them, are as injurious to the health, as the fatal accidents of fire are destructive of the safety of the inhabitants."

GAZETTEER, January 19, 1769.

"THE same motives that induced me first to take notice of the recent calamities occasioned by the sugar-houses lately burnt down, incite me to revive the subject.

"In scenes of hurry, and perpetual calls to new objects of pleasure, profit, party, and perhaps distress, it is not to be wondered at, if remarks, even that all approve, are read and forgot.

"Mention was made in the paper referred to, of the dangers to which the sick in the neighbourhood of fires were peculiarly exposed. I have met with several instances of this nature, since those accidents. One of them is a woman with child, and then within two months of her time: the fire being in the same street, her surprize was excessive; and she was seized with a disorder that seems to threaten the life of the mother and the child, and to deprive a young family of their comfort and support.

"No doubt but such accidents occur in the vicinity of all fires. Let us, however, secure ourselves from the hazard as much as we can.

"Within the circuit of a mile and an half, in the most populous part of the city of London, there are not
less

some burying-grounds the graves are made sufficiently wide to contain three or four wooden coffins abreast; and deep enough to hold twice as many in depth: these pits, after each burial, are covered with a few loose boards, and a little mould, to hide the coffin from common view; but they are never filled up till the whole complement of corpses has been interred. When this is done, a second grave is opened upon the

less than eighteen sugar-houses. Five or six of these have been burnt down within the last twenty years, and some of them twice, as I am credibly informed.

“ Can the magistrates, can the representatives of this great city, vindicate their supineness, in exposing such a number of their fellow citizens to all the calamities arising from these houses, devoted, as it were, to the flames, and to spread terror, death, and ruin, through the neighbourhoods in which they are erected ?

“ It is sufficient for a private man to have pointed out the evil. It now becomes the duty of the public, and of those particularly whom the public choice has raised to dignity and honour, to take care that the commonwealth suffers no loss.

“ To these I call; I call likewise to the inhabitants in the neighbourhood of these buildings, to rouse their representatives in common council, in the great council of the nation likewise, to secure them from impending danger.”

same plan, close to the first, leaving the sides of the former coffins still exposed; by which means these wholesale receptacles of the dead become so offensive, as frequently to oblige the ministers, and others upon funeral duty, to stand at a considerable distance, to avoid the stench arising from them. The insalubrity of such a practice is confirmed by the testimonies of many writers *. It was what Dr. FOTHERGILL uniformly discouraged; and, to supply the defect of burying-places within the city, he proposed the site of Moorfields, as lying on the north side of the town; southern winds being more sultry, and likely to convey to the inhabitants any

* I have known instances of the hospital-fever, says Sir John Pringle, beginning in a ward, when there was no other cause but one of the men having a mortified limb. Diseases of the Army.

He adds, amongst the causes of malignant fevers, burials within the towns, and the bodies not laid deep. Ibid.

Forestus says, he was an eye-witness to a plague which arose from the same cause.

Diodorus Siculus observes, that the putrid steams arising from the bodies of those who lay unburied, was one of the causes of that dreadful distemper that broke out among the Carthaginians at the siege of Syracuse. And numerous other authors attest the same facts.

noxious

noxious exhalations, the diffusion of which, it is well known, northern winds tend rather to check than promote. That this; however, might be executed with decent elegance; he formed the idea of constructing Cemeteries in this large space of ground, formed into distinct regular rows, suitable for every degree of citizens, and appropriated to families, in the same manner as vaults in general are.

In a large and crowded city, where the free circulation of the air must necessarily be greatly obstructed, every means conducive to the preservation of health should be studiously promoted; and, next to bodily exercise, and the enjoyment of the open air, nothing perhaps contributes more to it than cleanliness by bathing, which the inhabitants of warm climates, both in ancient and modern times, considered likewise as the highest gratification, as the multitude of their Baths; and the stupendous structures raised for private and public accommodation, fully testify.

The wealthier citizens of the present time are, indeed, in the habit of enjoying this salutary luxury; though, from the re-

volution in dress; and the frequent change of cloathing, unknown to the ancients, they have neither the necessity of former times, nor the occasions which the poor at present labour under, of washing themselves from the impurities incident on manual employments, and the want of change of cloathing.

In conversation, Dr. FOTHERGILL has repeatedly mentioned to me the importance of public Baths, for the convenience of the lower classes of the people; and the annexed letter evinces, that he took some active steps towards the accomplishment of this easy, safe, and salutary gratification*.

In

* " To the DIRECTORS of the New River Company.

" HARPUR STREET, Nov. 16, 1780.

" GENTLEMEN,

" I take the liberty to mention a circumstance, which I think is of some importance to the salubrity of your water, and therefore not unworthy of your consideration.

" Returning lately from the North, and passing through Ware, I was struck with observing the quantity of leaves falling into the New River from the trees growing along its banks; at the same time reflecting, that in the whole of its course to Islington, the quantity must be such as could not fail, by rotting in the
current,

In large communities vice has ever abounded, though the wisest legislators have used

current, to render the water less pleasant and less wholesome. Whether this circumstance has occurred to you, I know not; but I am very certain it must have a considerable effect on the water; and it appears, from late experiments, that the sun has much influence in meliorating the water. For both these reasons I imagine you will think it expedient to give particular instructions to those who have the immediate care of the river committed to them, to take care to have as many of the trees removed from the verge of the river, as possibly can be done, without creating too much opposition; to prevent, every where, any new ones from being planted so near the river, as to injure it either by their shade or the falling leaves. It is of no small importance, and I doubt not but the matter will be properly attended to.

“ Another circumstance I have long wished to communicate to you, which I think is an affair deserving your consideration: I need not mention the trouble you have annually on account of people bathing in the New River, and the disgust it gives to those who are witnesses of the facts, as well as to those who drink the water and hear of it. The only means I can suggest to prevent this double mischief, is to make it the interest of those who do it, to do otherwise. It seems to me, that you would render an essential service to the community at large, and to the proprietors, if you would either build a few bathing-houses in convenient places, or encourage others to build them, where people might be

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used endeavours to prevent and restrain it, by the encouragement of industry, and by the infliction of punishments on the commission of crimes. Liberty, the birthright of man, the possession of which he cannot be permitted to bathe at low prices; six-pence, three-pence, a penny each, &c. Begin with a few, extend them as occasion requires; some for men, some for women; some for boys, others for girls; and a peace officer or two to be on the spot, to see that no irregularities are committed. On vacant spots in the Spaw Fields, and other parts in the vicinage of populous places, they might be built conveniently, and let to advantage, limiting the tenants to low rates, for the accommodation of servants, and others, who cannot afford a shilling a time; and many for this reason go into ponds and rivers beyond their depth, to the loss of several lives.

“ As I am persuaded that by this means you might prevent, or be enabled to punish with due severity, transgressors, and do a public benefit, I have no doubt but you will excuse me for suggesting these considerations; in the execution of which I shall readily communicate every thing that has occurred to me respecting it.

“ I am, with much respect,

“ Your Friend,

“ J. FOTHERGILL.”

[Communicated to my valuable friend, John Scott, Esq; of Amwell, well known in the literary world, by the late Amie Garnault, Esq; of Bull's Cross, Middlesex, who was an active member of the New River Company.]

be

be too solicitous to maintain, has, in most states, been denied to criminal members of society ; and, in some instances also, where the breach of social regulations has been the effect of unavoidable misfortune, rather than of actual vice : it has, however, always been the wish of humanity, that punishments could be so applied, as to be strictly adequate to the degrees of offence. Certain it is, that the indiscriminate confinement of many persons together, is productive of two unhappy inconveniences ; the first, as it affects the body, by generating infectious diseases ; and the other, as it contaminates the mind, by hardening the vicious, and, by their example, depraving those not already abandoned. All Europe is acquainted with the benevolent, the godlike exertions of HOWARD, whose memory will ever be dear to the miserable tenant of a prison, and to whose labours that elegant statesman, BURKE, has borne the most honourable testimony *.

This

* I cannot name this gentleman (Mr. Howard) without remarking, that his labours and writings have done much to open the eyes and hearts of mankind. He has visited all Europe,—not to survey the sumptuousness of palaces, or the stateliness of temples ; not to make ac-

This HOWARD was the intimate friend of Dr. FOTHERGILL; they were the friends of humanity; and both were employed in lessening the miseries of human life, though in different spheres; but in attempting to prevent those injuries and diseases which human contagion produces, they united their labours. The legislature, justly alarmed at repeated instances of infection, which prisoners disseminated in courts when brought curate measurements of the remains of ancient grandeur, nor to form a scale of the curiosity of modern art; not to collect medals, or to collate manuscripts:—but to dive into the depths of dungeons; to plunge into the infection of hospitals; to survey the mansions of sorrow and pain; to take the gage and dimensions of misery, depression, and contempt; to remember the forgotten, to attend to the neglected, to visit the forsaken, and to compare and collate the distresses of all men in all countries. His plan is original; and it is as full of genius as it is of humanity. It was a voyage of discovery; a circumnavigation of charity. Already the benefit of his labour is felt, more or less, in every country: I hope he will anticipate his final reward, by seeing all its effects fully realized in his own. He will receive, not by retail, but in gross, the reward of those who visit the prisoner; and he has so forestalled and monopolized this branch of charity, that there will be, I trust, little room to merit by such acts of benevolence hereafter. Burke's Speech at the Guildhall in Bristol, 1780.

before

before their judges, was disposed to receive the best advice for obviating such baneful effects. Dr. FOTHERGILL and his friend were desired to attend the House of Commons; before which they gave such information, as induced the legislature to pass a Bill, intituled, “ An Act for preserving the
 “ Health of Prisoners in Gaol, and preventing the Gaol Distemper,” anno 1774; and afterwards to recommend the building of detached or Penitentiary houses*, as a mode of punishment calculated to restrain indolence and vice. These two distinguished persons, with George Whatley, Esq; were appointed, by the king, Commissioners for directing suitable buildings to carry into execution this new system of correction.

The

* J. Clitherow, Esq; the brother-in-law of the late Judge Blackstone, in the preface to his Reports, containing memoirs of his life, attributes, in a great measure, the origin of these houses to his amiable brother. “ In these houses,” says he, “ the convicts are to be separately confined during the intervals of their labour, —debarred from all incentives to debauchery, —instructed in religion and morality, —and forced to work for the benefit of the public. Imagination cannot figure to itself a species of punishment, in which terror, benevolence, and reformation, are more happily blended together.

The first of these, our President, did not live to see this useful design completed, though he had laboured assiduously in digesting it, and had previously inserted some useful remarks on the punishment of convicts, in the public prints, which I think too important to be omitted in his Works.

To obviate, however, and repress the first eruptions of vicious propensity, is an object of the greatest importance to the welfare and happiness of the community. In some instances, more might be effected by lenient means than by severe punishments: one begets gratitude, and a desire to retrieve reputation; the other hardens the mind, excites the passions of revenge and cruelty, and confirms a more abandoned profligacy

gether. What can be more dreadful to the riotous, the libertine, the voluptuous, the idle delinquent, than solitude, confinement, sobriety, and constant labour? Yet what can be more truly beneficial? Solitude will awaken reflection; confinement will banish temptation; sobriety will restore vigour; and labour will beget a habit of honest industry: while the aid of a religious instructor may implant new principles in his heart; and, when the date of his punishment is expired, will conduce to both his temporal and eternal welfare. Such a prospect as this is surely well worth the trouble of an experiment."

of

of conduct. There are even vices, which seem to vibrate from a false shame, or mistaken integrity: the impoverished husband, upon whom the sustenance of a family depends, may privately steal, or boldly rob, from the cogency of domestic sensibility, without any vicious design to injure another: and such individuals are not irreclaimable; for such, to my knowledge, have been reclaimed.

*In vitium ducit culpæ fuga——**

HOR. Ars Poet. l. xxxi.

But the most effectual barrier against corruption of manners, and the influence of vicious example, is an early and guarded education. As the sun is to the external, so is learning to the intellectual eye; it enables the mind to distinguish truth from error, endows it with stability and strength to combat vicious propensities, and renders it susceptible of enjoying the felicities of life, without adopting its follies, or entailing its miseries. To promote this useful education, Dr. FOTHERGILL was

* ———whilst one fault they shun,
Into its opposite extreme they run.

a liberal advocate. How much he contributed towards the seminaries of learning instituted at Williamsburg, New York, and Philadelphia, I am not particularly assured; but if the extent of his liberality may be estimated by the degree of gratitude and respect with which his memory is revered throughout America, it must have been ample.

In the wide stream of public good, he did not overlook the situation of his own religious persuasion; where his influences were most powerful, and where congenial minds were more united in promoting his laudable views. He had long endeavoured to institute an extensive establishment for the education of the children of the Society not in affluence; but nothing was effectually done, until, as Dr. Hird observes*,
 “ by one of those fortunate events, on
 “ which hangs the fate of many great undertakings, the whole of his design became easy and practicable. On his return
 “ from Cheshire, through Yorkshire, in
 “ the year 1778, he did me the favour of
 “ being my guest a few days, during which

* Affectionate Tribute, page 21, 22.

“ time he was visited by many of his friends
 “ in those parts. In one of these inter-
 “ views, the conversation turned on an in-
 “ stitution at Gildersome, a small establish-
 “ ment for the education of poor children
 “ amongst the Society: the Doctor was
 “ inquiring into its state and management,
 “ and how far it might serve as a model
 “ for a larger undertaking: a just descrip-
 “ tion being given of it, with the follow-
 “ ing remark, that not only this, but all
 “ others, however laudable the motives
 “ from which they took their rise, must
 “ fail of success, without a constant super-
 “ intending care and unremitting attention
 “ to the first great object of the institution.
 “ This idea was exemplified by the then
 “ present state of the Foundling Hospital
 “ at Ackworth; which, although originat-
 “ ing from the most humane principle,
 “ and erected at a vast expence, was, from
 “ repeated inattentions to the first design,
 “ in danger of dilapidation, and ready for
 “ public sale. This relation struck the
 “ Doctor forcibly; ‘Why may not this,’
 “ said he, ‘serve the very purpose I am in
 “ pursuit of?’ To be short, the building,
 “ and

“ and an estate of 80 acres of land, were
 “ purchased; improved, and furnished by
 “ subscription. The Doctor set a generous
 “ example by his own contribution, and
 “ an endowment by his will in perpetuity.”

I have inserted this quotation, as it explains the incident which brought Dr. FOTHERGILL acquainted with this eligible situation, respecting which he afterwards expressed his warmest approbation, in a Letter to a Friend, which I have preserved in his Works. “ Though I had not seen the building,” he observes, “ I had seen and considered a plan of the house, and learned from that, and from the report of many who had been on the spot, that the building, the situation, the healthfulness of the country, the plenty of provisions, and the vicinity of many valuable friends, were such, that if it could be purchased, and properly endowed, it might, in many respects, answer the intention of friends, and lay the ground-work of an useful and permanent establishment. The children of friends not in affluent circumstances, are the objects of Ackworth School ; the children

dren of such persons, as must either provide for their offspring a very cheap education, or none at all. And there is great reason to believe, that the inability of many friends to make such provision, or to find any means of obtaining a safe education, has been the occasion of keeping their children at home, where it was impracticable to keep them at all times from corrupt company." The human mind, it has been observed, must have some object in view; and if virtue and propriety do not engage it, vice and folly will: whatever, therefore, busies the mind, without corrupting it, has at least this use, that it rescues the day from idleness; and he that is never idle, will not often be vicious: and when habits of industry are confirmed by useful meditation; virtuous sentiments will be more easily inculcated; for, if Virtue could be seen, she must be loved; and if Truth could be heard, she must be obeyed. -

*Oderunt peccare boni virtutis amore *.*

HOR. Epist. 16. l. i. v. 52.

The success of this School rewarded

* The good, for virtue's sake, disdain to sin.

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Dr. FOTHERGILL's well-grounded expectations. That ingenious writer, whose authority I have repeatedly appealed to, is particularly acquainted with the present state of this extensive establishment, as he resides in its vicinity, and has thought it so far an object of his attention, as personally to visit it; and his description, communicated in 1781, affords a pleasing prospect of its utility and probable permanency; and I may add, that its improved state, at the present time, affords further confirmation of its success. "There are," he observes*, "above three hundred children, " of both sexes, under the roof, furnished " with all the necessary conveniences and " comforts of life, properly cloathed, and " educated in every branch of knowledge " suitable for the station in which it is " presumed they may be placed. And, to

* Dr. Hird's Affectionate Tribute, page 22, 23.—I am sorry to add here, that this excellent physician and agreeable companion did not long survive this Tribute to his honoured friend and relation. At the time of his decease, he was physician to the Leeds Infirmary; in which office he has been succeeded by my friend and university colleague, Dr. Walker, a physician of distinguished abilities and humanity.

" the

“ the satisfaction of every benevolent heart,
“ it may be truly said, that the institution
“ is at present in a most flourishing state,
“ fully answering the design of its foun-
“ ders; being conducted under the care of
“ a number of chosen guardians, of ability,
“ and of exemplary conduct, with an ex-
“ actness of order, decency, and propriety,
“ extremely striking, and perfectly pleas-
“ ing to all who have visited it, though
“ not of the same Society.—The children
“ are taught habits of regularity, of de-
“ cency, and respectful subordination to
“ their superiors; of forbearance, affection,
“ and kindness towards each other; and of
“ religious reverence towards their Maker;
“ and, I may farther add, those habits of
“ silence and recollection, taught and prac-
“ tised in the ancient schools of philo-
“ sophy, inculcated in the Scriptures, and
“ most emphatically called, *the true door of*
“ *entrance into the school of wisdom.*”

If Dr. FOTHERGILL's life had not been distinguished by a series of illustrious actions, this noble institution at Ackworth was alone sufficient to endear his name to
i posterity,

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posterity, by conferring upon subsequent generations the means of an useful education, which places out the virtues of youth to the best usury, where the interest is, of all others, the most productive and permanent ; for education, when it works on an amiable disposition, draws out to view every latent virtue and perfection, which might otherwise lie dormant, or remain obscured ; for not to have reason, and to have it useless and unemployed, is nearly the same. This public action was consistent with the tenor of his life, and constituted one uniform system of philanthropy, where the heart melted with benevolence, and where the hand showered liberality*.

*Gratum est, quod patriæ civem, populoque dedisti,
Sic facis ut patriæ sit idoneus, utilis agris,*

* It must afford satisfaction to every friend of humanity to know, that in the establishment of Ackworth School, many congenial dispositions aided Dr. FOTHERGILL whilst he was living, and persevere to promote it since his death. In David Barclay particularly, whose name I have already mentioned, equal ardour is exerted, as there was before equal philanthropy and beneficence.

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Utilis——paci rebus agendis.

*Plurimum enim intererit, quibus artibus, et
quibus hunc tu*

Moribus instituas——

JUV. Sat. xiv. l. 70.

In the days of superstition and ignorance, when persons of extensive literature were deemed extraordinary phenomena, whoever excelled in letters was distinguished from the common class of mankind, and viewed with that veneration which superior knowledge and endowment inspire; but as literature was diffused, men of letters having many equals, the peculiar distinction or pre-eminence of primæval times was less discernible. In the professors of physic, at present, not only the learning of the schools, but science in general, is a part of medical accomplishment. In an extent of science, equally diffuse and unlimited, it would be impracticable, as well as indelicate, to draw a comparison of living characters; nor could a certain criterion be deduced from suppositious reputation, which must always be partial: to estimate it by pecuniary emolument would be inade-

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quate, because the product of the professors of physic cannot be accurately known; and if it could, the degree of practice could not thence be ascertained, as the liberality of individuals not only varies, but the moderation likewise of the faculty in accepting gratuities. That Dr. FOTHERGILL acquired much in the line of his profession, we know by the amplitude of his generosity; but the exact extent he never disclosed. Calculations sometimes have been formed from the time that has been devoted to business: with individuals, whose moments are constantly employed, he will accomplish the most who is the best œconomist of time; and no time can certainly be better employed, than that which is devoted to sick and helpless friends. But were medical character to be decided by the œconomy of time, no man had a more decided claim to pre-eminence than Dr. FOTHERGILL: he made every moment important, by a wonderful regularity in his manners and in all his concerns, and his domestics had acquired a similar punctuality; and thus, by general order and system, not a
moment

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moment seemed with him to be lost in relays, nor in his movements from one object to another. If some people live out half their days without numbering one, he estimated time too highly to say with the Roman Titus, *Diem perdidit*. If the length of time is to be measured by the quick succession of ideas, no man lived longer every day, or I may indisputably add, lived more usefully.

*Ampliat ætatis spatium sibi vir bonus, hoc est
Vivere bis, vitâ posse priore frui.*

MART.

Sometimes indeed it happens, that physicians have acquired much city practice, without any extent of reputation out of the vicinity of their residence ; but with respect to Dr. FOTHERGILL, it may be safely asserted, that if he had not attained the first rank in town, he certainly had the most general reputation through the kingdom and colonies, of any contemporary physician. Whenever he went down to Lea-hall, or to any distance out of town, he was as constantly intercepted by a concourse of Valetudinarians, who had found means to get

information of his route. In the year 1769, my excellent guardian, his brother Samuel, was indisposed during his visit in London; and as he was desirous of returning homewards, I was requested to accompany him to Lea-hall, and the Doctor proposed to follow us down soon after. I was then a student of medicine; but I could not avoid remarking the numerous applications made to us to ascertain the time of his passing through different stages. I think he once informed me, that he had upwards of fifty applications at one place in his journey: I have been his Amanuensis repeatedly for at least twenty patients at one sitting. At home, indeed, the present generation will not require to be told, that he had the confidence of the public as a physician; of his patients, likewise, as a near and confidential friend; and of the literary, as a respectful associate. He was chosen, in 1754, a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians at Edinburgh, as he had early been of the Medical Society* instituted there, and since incorporated

* Near fifty years ago, several students of medicine formed this Society, for their mutual instruction and advancement.

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incorporated by royal authority; and in
1763, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal
Society

advancement in their studies. “ Every student of a certain standing, who distinguished himself by his diligence, capacity, and conduct, was initiated into this little assembly. Here the opinions of the ancients, of their contemporaries, nay the doctrines of their masters, were frequently discussed; and two of the members were always charged with the task of providing instruction and entertainment for the next meeting of the Society. Questions, no doubt, were here disputed and decided, which long experience would have declined. But it exercised their faculties, gave them both sides of arguments, taught them to doubt, and habituated them to observation.” Dr. FOTHERGILL’s *Life of Dr. Russell*, page 367 in the edition of his Works.

When one considers the utility, as well as high reputation of a Society, begun and conducted by students, curiosity is naturally excited to date the commencement of this singular and useful institution; which I am enabled to do, by the information of one of its first and most respectable members. In the latter end of August 1734, the under-written Gentlemen*, then fellow students

* *Dr. Cleghorn.*

Dr. Cuming.

Dr. Russell.

Dr. Hamilton, son to the then Professor of Divinity at Edinburgh; who having finished his studies, took his Degree there, publishing on that occasion a Thesis, *De Morbis Offsum.*—He afterwards settled at Annapolis, in North Carolina, where he died many years ago.

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Society of London; and was one of the earliest members of the American Philosophical Society, instituted at Philadelphia.

Thus

students in the Schools of Medicine at Edinburgh, who had been long familiarly acquainted, and entertained a reciprocal regard for each other, after having employed themselves, during the three preceding weeks, in the dissection of a body in the Anatomical Theatre, agreed to spend a social evening together at a tavern.—After supper it was proposed, by one of the company, that this little Society should meet once a fortnight, early in the evening, at their respective lodgings; that a dissertation, in English or Latin, on some medical subject, at the choice of the Society, should be composed, and read at each of these meetings, to which such objections as occurred to the rest of the company should be made, which the author was to obviate in the best manner he could. This proposal was cordially assented to by all present; and Dr. *Cuming* was appointed by the other members to prepare a dissertation for their first meeting, on the signs, causes, and method of cure of the *Rabies Canina*: this he accordingly did, and read

Mr. Archibald Taylor, brother to a physician of that name at Edinburgh; an ingenious young man, who died a few years after in the East Indies.

Dr. James Kennedy; who after having taken his Degree in Physic, was invited to accompany a young gentleman of fortune in the Tour of Europe.—On his return home, after having spent three years in this employment, he purchased a commission in the army, and was for many years senior captain of dragoons.—Why *Doctor FOTHERGILL* was not associated into this little band, cannot now be recollected; but he was known to, and highly esteemed by, every one of the members.

Thus conspicuous as a physician in the first city in Europe, his character could not but be known on the continent, where science is cultivated with the same commendable ardour. Linnæus, the late botanical luminary of Upsal, had distinguished a species of Polyandria Digynia by the name of Fothergilla Gardeni. In 1776 he was chosen an honorary member of the Royal Society of Medicine at Paris; for men of true science, of every nation, in the tumult of empires, are united in endeavouring to render mankind wiser and happier; they are always of one party; and the French, whose literary exertions reflect honour on the na-

to the Society on the 20th of December following. Dr. Russell followed in one, *De Gonorrhœa virulenta*: then came Dr. Cleghorn, *De Epilepsia*; Kennedy, *De Fluxu Mensium*, &c.—This association continued during that winter, and the ensuing spring; but, in the summer of 1735, the members of this little Society were dispersed, and Cleghorn alone remained to continue, with his respected FOTHERGILL and some others, this association during the subsequent winter. This was the humble and fortuitous commencement of a Society, that has since become highly respectable by its obvious utility, and the names of many learned and eminent physicians which it records in the list of its members, and it is now incorporated by Royal Charter.

tion

tion and on the age, instituted, in 1776, a Royal Medical Society; and, to render it more extensively beneficial, they have chosen honorary or corresponding members from the ingenious of all nations. Of the number in this kingdom, whose characters acquired the suffrages of this Society, was our late President: their address to him upon that occasion is marked with a spirit of true philosophy, which is not restricted within the limits of empires; and its insertion here must be acceptable to every liberal mind.

“ * DOCTOR ILLUSTRISIME,

“ QUAS hodie confociationis litteras offert tibi Regia Societas Medica Parisiensis, ego tantò libentius ad te mitto, quod dulcissimum et utilissimum epistolare commercium nobis procul dubio concedes, quodque
mihi

* “ ILLUSTRIOUS DOCTOR,

“ I the more willingly send you the letters of admission into membership, which the Royal Medical Society of Paris this day offers you, because we shall doubtless gain a most agreeable and useful literary correspondence with you, and because such an association
and

JOHN FOTHERGILL, M.D. cxxxix

mihi jucundissima maximè que proficua
talis erit confraternitas. Institutionis edictæ
dispositiones, inauguralemque simul oratio-
nem benignè cum hac epistolâ recipias ve-
lim. Plurimarum jam Academiarum codices
condecorat immortale nomen tuum; sed in
Acemiâ ferè medicâ conscribi à consodali-
bus summæ existimationis testimonia reci-
pere, tua famâ non indignum fore credidi-
mus; ego que præsertim, vividissime gaudeo,
quod locus ille quem in nostra Societate
mihi concedit Rex Christianissimus Galli-
arum, frequentia meæ totius ergà te ob-
servantia specimina redditurus sit, istasque
multiplicabit

and brotherhood will be extremely pleasant, and parti-
cularly useful to me. The edicts of the institution, the
forms of it, and the inaugural oration, I wish you kindly
to receive, together with this letter. Your immortal
name is already an honour to the registers of many
academies; but to be enrolled a member of an academy
almost wholly medical, by the Fellows of it, and to
receive the highest testimonies of their esteem, we
thought would not be unworthy of your reputation;
and I especially feel a very sensible pleasure in it, be-
cause the place assigned me in our Society by the Most
Christian King, will enable me to render frequent
proofs of my entire esteem for you, and will multiply
those

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multiplicabit occasiones, in quibus me dicam
semper,

“ Doctor illustrissime,

“ Obsequentissimum tui servum

“ et cultorem,

LUTELIÆ PARISIARUM, “ VICQ. D’AZYR.”
die mensis Decembris 1776.

“ P. S. Tantam tibi offert vovetque Re-
gia Societas ut quales illi correspondentes,
numerandos esse in tua provinciâ judicabitis,
tales acceptura sit et libentissime pro suis
sit habitura: si ergo institutionis nostræ fruc-
tus et commoda augere non recuses omnia
quæcunque Societatis gratiâ facies, jucun-
dissima

those opportunities in which I shall always subscribe
myself,

“ Illustrious Doctor,

“ Your most devoted servant

“ and admirer,

“ VICQ. D’AZYR.

“ P. S. The Royal Society places so much confi-
dence in you, that the persons you shall judge proper
for their correspondents, within the sphere of your ac-
quaintance, they will receive, and very readily esteem
them as such: if, therefore, you do not refuse to aug-
ment the fruit and advantages of our institution, we
shall esteem whatever you do for the good of the Society

as

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diffima et rectissima reputabimus. Age igitur, co-operatores inter amicos doctissimos que collegas quorum merita non noscimus, elige nobis, optima quæ detexerunt, quæque detexisti ipse sedulo communica medicæque correspondentiæ per te crescat utilitas et amplitudo, nos confocios, eidem philosophiæ studentes, ejusdemque veritatis amantes et æmulos reddat nova confederatio. Sese noscunt à longo tempore cæteri viri Literati mediantibus academiis, medici vero nullo ferè nexu junguntur, celeberrimorum que tantum vix nomina callemus. Fiamus autem mutuis epistolis ex omnibus Europæ finibus

as highly agreeable, and to be depended upon. Let me entreat you then to chuse out for us assistants and co-partners amongst the most learned of your friends and colleagues whose merits we do not know, and diligently to communicate their best discoveries, and what you yourself have discovered, that so the usefulness and extent of medical correspondence may be encreased, and a true confederacy render us brethren, students of the same philosophy, and zealous lovers of the same truths. The living Literati in other arts and sciences have for a long time, by means of academies, been acquainted with each other; physicians are scarcely connected by any tie, the bare names of the most illustrious among them being hardly known. But let us establish correspondents by mutual letters in every part of Europe. And lastly,

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finibus correspondentes. Dein utinam, amici et quidquid eveniat uniti: medicina que tandem sit una ut Hippocrates, nec amplius, ut est hodie multiplex. Hæc sunt quæ sperat à te academica illa Societas, quam *tuam* dicere possumus quippe qui Socius ab eâ jam a plurimis mensibus denunciatus fuisti."

Dr. FOTHERGILL had now attained the zenith of medical reputation: in national concerns, or public calamities from disease, his opinion was sought after, and as uniformly adopted. When the British House of Commons was informed of the dreadful fatality of the gaol distemper, among the French and Spanish prisoners confined in Winchester, Dr. FOTHERGILL's opinion was instantly taken upon the subject, and he recommended Dr. J. Carmichael Smith to

lastly, I wish that we may be friends, and united together, whatever may happen*: medicine then would be uniform, and but one in all places, as Hippocrates wished it to be, and not as it is at present, divided into parties. These are the things this academic Society wishes to promote, and which we may now call your Society, seeing you have been declared a Fellow of it for some months."

* Probably referring to the commencement of the war.

superintend

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superintend the prison, to avert, if possible,
the spreading contagion ;—the singular suc-
cess of whose attendance, whilst it did ho-
nour to Dr. Smith's medical knowledge,
reflected no less upon Dr. FOTHERGILL's
discernment in the choice of an able phy-
sician ; as the following report from the
Office for Sick and Wounded Seamen will
fully justify.

A Weekly progressive State of the Sickness and Mortality among the Spanish Prisoners, confined in the King's House at Winchester; from the first Appearance of the Jail Distemper, until the 8th of July 1780.

Date of Weekly Accounts.	Number of Spanish Prisoners.		
	In Custody.	Sick.	Dead.
March 26, 1780	1247	60	1
April 2, —	1243	106	4
9, —	1475	150	10
16, —	1457	172	18
23, —	1433	142	21
30, —	1412	171	21
May 7, —	1388	191	25
14, —	1351	197	27
21, —	1523	205	30
28, —	1494	226	31
* June 3, —	1461	262	33
10, —	1437	212	26
17, —	1426	173	9
24, —	1420	167	5
July 1, —	1414	143	5
8, —	1433	122	2

* The time of Dr. Carmichael Smith's going to Winchester.—It would prove highly useful to the public, were this ingenious physician to communicate his method of treatment, which was attended with such obvious success. A prisoner is an object of compassion in every point of view.

Long

Long before this period, it is well known that the Empress of Russia, with a spirit of freedom and resolution, which added lustre to her dignified station, resolved to receive the small-pox by inoculation; and having heard of the Suttons as celebrated in this department, ordered her ambassador at the British court to send an experienced person to Peterburgh to perform the operation. When this order arrived, Dr. FOTHERGILL was consulted; and by his influence, and by his alone, the life of the empress was entrusted to a physician (Doctor, afterwards Baron Dimsdale) whose experience entitled him to this distinguished employment. When Dr. FOTHERGILL related this circumstance to me, he mentioned it merely as a matter of confidential information, without appearing sensible of the influence and importance of his extensive reputation.

But a life thus spent in the conscientious discharge of every duty, and the uniform practice of every virtue, could not shield him from the misrepresentations of envy, malevolence, and avarice, as the accusations of two persons, at different periods of time, amply proved. Those who have been ac-

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quainted

quainted with Dr. FOTHERGILL, during the last ten or twelve years of his life, must know that I allude to the prosecution commenced against him by one, for a supposed injury; and to the partiality of which he was accused by the other, in adjusting a difference between him and a respectable Baronet. Of these transactions it is unnecessary here to enter into a minute detail: the decree, pronounced on the former case by that learned and sagacious judge, the Lord Chief Justice of England, most honourably justified the character of our late President from every imputation of wrong*; and his own pen † not only entirely vindicated him from every aspersions of partiality and injustice thrown upon him by his accuser, but also exhibited most exemplary instances of candour, liberality of sentiment, and generosity.

Persons, whose stated employments preclude the enjoyment of leisure, naturally acquire a habit of brevity in the dispatch of their concerns: in conversation they apply

* See Gentleman's Magazine, November 1781.

† Introductory Remarks on the Preface of Parkinson's Journal of a Voyage.

immediately to the subject of discussion; in writing, they compress much in a small space. In addition to this kind of compulsive dispatch, acquired by the urgency of important transactions, Dr. FOTHERGILL possessed a remarkable quickness of perception; and, what is unusual with vivacity of mind, united solidity of judgment. Those who did not personally know him, must form the same opinion of him, from the display of genius and sagacity in his early publications: Some of these I have already adverted to; and to them I might add his early essays in the Gentleman's Magazine for 1751, and the three subsequent years.

His pieces in the Medical Enquiries, a publication which commenced in June 1757, and is still continued, have been read by the Faculty universally, and always with approbation, as they contain facts that cannot be too well known; and wherever they are known, they will be adopted, with as little exception, at least, as can be supposed to arise in an improving art. If his language was not always minutely correct, probably owing to want of time, it was easy and fluent, and, what in such compositions is

more valuable, it was accurately descriptive.

His epistolary writing was instructive and sprightly. As he was not confined to the didactic solidity of medical disquisitions, where knowledge is passive, and genius superfluous, and where facts and experiments, rather than ornament and elegance, are the leading objects, his language was less restrained; it was more brilliant, but less correct; it was more varied and amusing, and at the same time it was chaste and instructive; and, like his conversation, the same sentiments were conveyed, in a liveliness of colouring and frankness of expression, that in any other point of view might have afforded no emotion of pleasure, or proof of superior endowment. There was indeed a charm in his converse and address, as hath been ingeniously remarked, that affected some with a transport of admiration, and commanded the high regard and opinion of those who employed him; whilst, by a discreet uniformity of conduct, he so fixed the capriciousness of mankind, that he was not apt to forfeit the esteem he had once acquired. His mind was of that happy ver-

fatility,

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fatility, that he could easily break off from important concerns, and enter into a familiar and pleasant conversation, with all the indifference of a man of leisure; and as easily resume the variety of his serious engagements, as if they had never been interrupted *.

Hilarisque, tamen cum pondere, virtus.

STAT.

As the highest stations are exposed to peculiar inconveniences, so the brightest genius is not unfrequently clouded with a counterpart: the mind that is endowed with the quickest perception, whilst interested in multifarious concerns, is not only liable to acquire a habit of deciding hastily, but a tenaciousness of its decisions. In this epitome of Dr. FOTHERGILL's character, I have endeavoured to delineate the outlines with impartiality, to appreciate his faults as well as his virtues: and, though the brilliancy of the latter hath shone through the clouds of the former, I consider this promptitude of adopting an opinion,

* Dr. Thompson's Life and Character of Dr. FOTHERGILL, page 29, 30.

and tenacious retention of it, as the most censurable part of a life (so far as I know, and I knew it well) otherwise blameless. Perfection is scarcely the lot of humanity; and in extenuation of this disposition it might be argued, that whilst he formed a hasty, his solidity of judgment prevented a wrong, determination: like the ballast of a ship, it kept steady the sails that were exposed to the sudden gusts of a storm. This failing, however, such as it was, has been sometimes remarked by the Faculty, in consultations with the Doctor, and remarked with censure; and whoever has been honoured and consulted for a series of years as a medical oracle, must have attained that experience, which affords the best presumption for firmness of opinion: but were the censure well founded, happy is the man, and happy the patients of that physician, who passeth through life with so much undeviating rectitude!

In this place, I cannot but gratefully recall to mind how much I owed to my deceased friend, when I left Europe to revisit my native island: it must be admitted, that though after seventeen years absence, I re-
turned

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turned to the bosom of my relations and of my friends ; yet, as a medical man, my character was solely reflected from the patronage of Dr. FOTHERGILL, whose name was as familiar throughout North America, and the Antilles, as in London.

With respect to political affairs, as connected with those of North America, he had long formed a decided opinion, “ Whether we look at the well-being and content of near two millions of English subjects on that continent, descended from and connected with ourselves ; or weigh the effects which their discontent and unhappiness must unavoidably produce on this country, scarce a more important object can present itself to an Englishman.”

Without entering into the causes and effects of a contest, which it is now our irretrievable misfortune to lament in vain, it was from its commencement the strenuous advice of Dr. FOTHERGILL, to treat our trans-atlantic brethren with a leniency due to fellow-subjects, whose rights and privileges being the same, entitled them to share in the prosperity and the enjoyments of the whole empire. “ If we enquire,” he ob-

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served, “ into the conduct of the wisest
“ states to their distant colonies, we shall
“ find it always to have been, to treat them
“ with kindness and indulgence, to engage
“ them to look back to the mother country
“ with duty and affection, and to recom-
“ pense the protection they have enjoyed
“ by the produce of their labours, their
“ commerce, and, when needed, their as-
“ sistance. We meet not with many in-
“ stances, comparatively, even of distant
“ conquered countries revolting, till causes
“ of strong disgust had sown the seeds of
“ discontent, and succeeding acts of op-
“ pression and injustice had ripened them
“ into rebellion.”

“ Colonies sprung from Britain,” he
observed, “ will bear much ; but it is to
“ be remembered, that they are the sons of
“ freedom ; and what they have been early
“ taught to look upon as virtue in their
“ ancestors, will not soon be forgotten by
“ themselves : nay, they will the sooner
“ be apt to vindicate their wrongs.”

As he was of opinion, that whatever the
motives of their migration may have been,
the effects of this migration have undoubt-
edly

edly been signally beneficial to this country; and therefore, if any distinction were to be made, a particular distinction was due to these distant subjects, whilst harsh and ungracious treatment would make them desirous of forgetting that they are of English descent, lessen their duty and allegiance, and induce them impatiently to look forward to that independency, which their situation favours; and this the more eagerly, in proportion to the prejudices they have imbibed against a government they think oppressive.

Unfortunately for this country, those measures which the Americans deemed oppressive, were eagerly pursued; and what Dr. FOTHERGILL, and most men who were acquainted with the continent and its inhabitants, early predicted, he lived to see realized.

Uniform as he was in opinion respecting the political objects which so long convulsed the empire, he was either misrepresented or not understood. He was so accurately informed of the power of America, and with the wishes of some of the principal of its inhabitants, that, long before the fatal transaction

transaction at Lexington, he foretold, as probable consequences of the projected measures, many of the great events which time has since evolved. If a man is censurable for the accomplishment of his predictions, Dr. FOTHERGILL was certainly so; but were such reasoning admissible, all the great characters of sacred and general history, whom we have been hitherto accustomed to reverence, must fall under a similar predicament: if their sagacity, or their superior information, had enlarged their views, and enabled them with precision to estimate the result of certain actions, the rulers to whom they communicated their observations, and who, possessing the power, but being perhaps otherwise informed, did not take adequate precautions to prevent what had been foretold, have been deemed answerable for the event. I can venture to assert, that no man laboured more anxiously than Dr. FOTHERGILL did, to prevent what he predicted as eventual from the prosecution of certain measures—the dismemberment of the empire.

As he had access, by his profession, to families of the first distinction, he embraced
occasional

occasional opportunities of suggesting his opinion of the prevailing system of politics, and the effects most likely to result from the prosecution of it: but although his advice was not adopted, I do not hence infer that the governing powers were censurable; my intention in introducing these observations, is to elucidate Dr. FOTHERGILL's political conduct respecting the contest between Great Britain and America, and clear it from the misrepresentations of persons less intimately acquainted with him; and this affords a sufficient apology for communicating to the public the following narrative of facts, stated from authentic papers that are now in my hands; leaving to the decision of the public, whether Dr. FOTHERGILL did not act the part of a true patriot, and a real friend of the constitution.

In the latter end of the year 1774, previous to the departure of Dr. Franklin out of this kingdom, an intimate friend of Dr. FOTHERGILL being in company with a nobleman of great political experience, between whom the conversation turning on

the critical situation of the American colonies, he pressed this gentleman to attempt a compromise with Dr. Franklin, before his intended departure; and he accordingly undertook it, from a cordial wish to promote a permanent reconciliation between the two countries: on this account he immediately applied to Dr. FOTHERGILL, who heartily united in this undertaking; and they mutually invited Dr. Franklin to a conference the same evening, and Dr. Franklin as readily accepted the invitation. This triumvirate, zealous for the welfare of both nations, devoted many hours to the important subjects of deliberation; and, after much discussion, it was mutually agreed, that they should meet again on the succeeding evening, when Dr. Franklin should commit to paper such a conciliatory plan as he conceived America had a right to expect, and that the other two, as Englishmen, should then object to such claims as they might judge Great Britain ought not to grant.

On the appointed evening, Dr. Franklin produced the following propositions (see A.); and those lines which appear in italics were

were objected to by Dr. FOTHERGILL and his colleague, and which Dr. Franklin gave up, and suffered to be expunged.

In this state a copy was taken, and imparted for negociation ; and the answer was, that the propositions were such as appeared to demand too much ; and in consequence several attempts were made to reconcile the subjects of contention : but as the 12th article of the propositions was insisted on by Dr. Franklin, though many of the others were acceded to, the negociation was broken off, and in a short time afterwards Dr. Franklin embarked for America.

The man of urbanity, who reflects upon the fatal carnage of 100,000 victims of war, drawn from the loom, and from rural tillage ; and with it the fruitless expenditure of 100 millions of money, must unavoidably regret, that the laudable exertions of the physician and the patriot were thus unhappily frustrated. Seeing, however, though distantly, the impending danger, he persevered in the same line of conduct, and renewed his endeavours to stop the effusion of blood, and to reconcile the con-

tending

tending parties, as will appear by the following letter, marked (B), which he wrote in 1775 to a noble Lord.

In 1780, Dr. Franklin wrote to Dr. FOTHERGILL's colleague the subsequent letter, marked (C), which I introduce to corroborate the above narrative.

In the preceding year Dr. FOTHERGILL published a pamphlet, intitled, "An English Freeholder's Address," which I have preserved in his Works : it contains sentiments further explanatory of his political character ; sentiments that will ever be revered.

(A.)

HINTS for Conversation, upon the Subject of Terms that may probably produce a durable Union between Great Britain and her Colonies.*

1st. THE tea destroyed, to be paid for:

2d. The tea duty act to be repealed, *and all the duties that have been received upon*

* The Editor conceives the following propositions to contain all the grievances comprized in the petition of Congress to the King, brought over by Governor Penn in 1775.

it

JOHN FOTHERGILL, M.D. clix

it to be repaid into the treasuries of the several provinces from which it has been collected.

3d. The acts of navigation to be all re-enacted in the several Colonies.

4th. A naval officer, appointed by the crown, to reside in each colony, to see that these acts are observed.

5th. All the acts restraining manufactures in the Colonies, to be re-considered.

6th. All duties arising on the acts for regulating trade with the Colonies, to be for the public use of the respective Colonies, and paid into their treasuries.

7th. The collectors and custom-house officers to be appointed by each governor, and not sent from England; the present officers to be continued only during each governor's pleasure.

8th. In consideration of the Americans maintaining their own peace establishment, and of the monopoly Britain is to have of their commerce, no requisition to be made from them in time of peace.

9th. In time of war, on requisition made by the king, with consent of parliament, every colony shall raise money by some
such

such rule or proportion as the following: viz. If Britain, on account of the war, pays as high as 3*s.* in the pound to its land-tax, then the Colonies to add to their last general provincial tax a sum equal to (suppose $\frac{1}{4}$) thereof; and if Britain, on the same account, pays 4*s.* in the pound, then the Colonies to add to their said tax a sum equal to (suppose $\frac{1}{2}$) thereof; which additional tax is to be granted to the king, and to be employed in raising and paying men for land or sea service, furnishing provisions, transports, or for such other purposes as the king shall require and direct: and though no colony may contribute less, each may add as much by voluntary grant as they shall think proper.

10th. No troops to enter, and quarter in any colony, but with the consent of its legislature.

11th. Castle William to be restored to the province of the Massachusetts Bay.

12th. The late Massachusetts and Quebec acts to be repealed, and a free government granted to Canada*.

* These acts include the Boston port bill; the alteration of the charters of the Massachusetts Bay; and, the extension the limits of Canada.

13th. The extension of the act of Henry VIII. concerning treason, to the colonies, to be formally disclaimed by parliament.

14th. The American Admiralty courts reduced to the same powers they have in England, and the acts relative to them to be re-enacted in America.

15th. All Judges in the king's colony governments to be appointed during good behaviour, the Colonies fixing ample and equally durable salaries: or, if it is thought best that the king should still continue to appoint during pleasure, then the colony assemblies to grant salaries during their pleasure, as has always heretofore been the practice.

16th. The Governors also to be supported by voluntary grants of the assemblies, as heretofore.

17th. *All power of internal legislation in the Colonies, to be disclaimed by parliament.*

The following letter, which covered that above referred to, marked (B), evinces the pains Dr. FOTHERGILL took to prevent that disunion of the empire he had predicted and feared; and upon this ac-

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count, short as it is, I insert it here: it was addressed, under cover, to his colleague in the transaction with Dr. Franklin.

“ DEAR FRIEND,

“ I CAME home last night at ten o'clock extremely fatigued. I could not forbear giving, perhaps, a very strong proof of it. If the enclosed remarks are worthy of the least notice, or any part of them, I wish we could see one another this morning, any time before nine o'clock.

J. FOTHERGILL.”

8th of the 10th mo. 1775.

(B.)

“ THE following sketch will shew rather my wishes than my hopes, of seeing the most certain, speedy, and honourable means of effecting the proposed measures.

“ To send as speedily as possible some person or persons, on whom Government may rely, and who are not unknown to some of the leaders of the Congress, and on whose character and probity they may have some dependence, to propose to them,

“ That

“ That an act shall be passed this sessions, virtually repealing all the blameable acts, by declaring that the Colonies shall be considered as being governed by the same laws, or placed in the same situation as they were in in the year 1762.

“ That in consequence of this declaration, if accepted by the Congress, the same persons shall have instructions to the commander in chief to cease all hostilities:

“ That a general amnesty shall be declared, all prisoners released, the provincial forces be disbanded, and the ports reciprocally opened for both countries.

“ That these preliminaries being fixed, instructions shall be sent to the several governors, to convene the assemblies, and require them to chuse two or more delegates, to meet a proper number of commissioners from England, at New York, and there to settle the due limits of authority on this side, and submission on theirs. The sword will never settle it as it ought to be. Submission to force, will endure no longer than superior force commands submission; —interest only can make it perpetual: and it is the interest of Britain that the union

should be perpetual, be the present sacrifice what it may.

“ The mode of proceeding in the union between England and Scotland may be adopted, so far as circumstances require; that is, the different conditions of the contenders considered. The objects are in most respects very different. From Scotland this country had chiefly in view negative advantages—that the Scots should not be any longer the tools of other powers, to work with to our undoing. From America we have every possible advantage to hope for; not only the benefits of commerce, but their power to protect us*. No power in Europe, who knows its interest, and has any possessions in the western world, will chuse to offend us, whilst we and America are united; because those possessions are im-

* “ Let it be considered, that Scotland is reputed to contain but about one million and a half of people—America almost three millions: that Scotland is not supposed to encrease in population—America, by population, and emigrants from other countries, becomes double every twenty-five years:—therefore, that the present state of America claims something more than Scotland could claim at the Union, both in respect to numbers and future benefit.”

mediately

mediately subject to the powers of America, directed by us :—what those powers are we now know full well by experience. Every distant possession of every power in Europe, is a pledge for the good behaviour of its owner to Great Britain.—Is any object we are now contending for, an equivalent to such an extensive and most certain influence ?

“ It is therefore much to be wished that some such persons might be pitched upon, and sent out, rather in a private character, as friends to both countries, than with a public authoritative commission : for if those who are now invested in America with power, should *distrust* them, the business is at an end; and this country and that are left exposed to all the distresses, which are only beginning to be felt by both.

“ Administration may think it an easy matter to avert any storm which may arise from a discovery that they have been misled, misinformed, and grossly abused, by those on whose opinion they had too confidently relied.—This, however, may admit of some doubts; and I have too much regard for

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many of those who compose it, to wish the experiment may ever be made.

“ Let it be considered, that every provocation we give widens the breach ; that the Americans have fully shewn they are the descendants of Englishmen ; and if they are warm and impetuous like us, like us also they are placable ; and instead of endeavouring to subdue them by force to a condition unworthy of our fellow-subjects, our countrymen, and our relations, let us open the shortest road to a speedy, honourable, and effectual reconciliation.

JOHN FOTHERGILL.”

(C.)

*Copy of a LETTER from Dr. FRANKLIN
to * *, dated Passy, Feb. 12, 1781.*

“ DEAR SIR,

“ I CONDOLE with you most sincerely on the loss of our dear friend Dr. FOTHERGILL. I hope that some one that knew him well, will do justice to his memory, by an account of his life and character. He
was

JOHN FOTHERGILL, M.D. clxvii
was a great doer of good. How much
might have been done, and how much
mischief prevented, if his, your, and my
joint endeavours, in a CERTAIN MELAN-
CHOLY AFFAIR, had been a little more
attended to!!

With great respect and esteem,

I am, &c.

B. FRANKLIN."

A mutual friendship had early com-
menced between Dr. FOTHERGILL and
Dr. Franklin, and continued to the death
of the former. Dr. Franklin, to whom I
am under obligations for many civilities
formerly, has since augmented them by his
late very obliging communications; and the
following extract of a letter is so applicable
to the subject of my narrative, that I shall
insert his own words, as the most honour-
able and expressive testimony of his regard
for his deceased FOTHERGILL.

" Our late excellent friend was always
" proposing something for the good of
" mankind. You will find instances of

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“ this kind in one of his letters, which I
“ enclose *, the only one I can at present
“ lay my hand on. I have some very va-
“ luable ones in America, if they are not
“ lost in the late confusions. Just before I
“ left England, he, in conjunction with
“ Mr. ** and myself, laboured hard to
“ prevent the coming war, but our endea-
“ vours were fruitless. This transaction
“ is alluded to in the first page. If we
“ may estimate the goodness of a man by
“ his disposition to do good, and his con-
“ stant endeavours and success in doing it,
“ I can hardly conceive that a better man
“ has ever existed †.”

Whilst he thus early disapproved those political measures which have since been

* In this letter Dr. FOTHERGILL introduces the subject of this negotiation; and, among other pertinent reflections, he suggests the importance of an uniformity of weights and measures throughout the continent of America; taking it for granted, as he long foresaw, her independence. To make these more familiar, he recommends that they should be framed of numbers easily divisible, as 4, 8, 16, 32, &c.

† Letter to the Editor, dated Passy, March 17, 1783.

generally

generally reprobated as eventually ruinous to the empire, and long afterwards expressed his sentiments to a friend of his in Yorkshire, previous to the general assembly of the county, held on the 30th of December 1779, he uniformly mentioned his sovereign in the most respectful language; it was not on men, but on measures, that he animadverted. Henry Zouch, of Sandal, in Yorkshire, a clergyman, and a justice of the peace, of distinguished reputation, was this intimate friend (and he was worthy of his confidence) to whom he addressed the following letter, which I am informed was read in a committee of the above meeting, and met with the most pointed approbation; which induces me to think that its insertion here will be acceptable to the reader.

“ THOUGH I am very apprehensive that the subject of this letter will be of very little consequence, yet I could not easily forego an opportunity of mentioning to thyself some sentiments that have occurred to me in respect to the very important meeting about to be held at York.

“ I know my voice is feeble and insignificant ;

ficant; but being a native of the county, and having a great regard for it, on this and many other accounts, I think I ought not to be totally silent on so important an occasion, though I know there are so many persons will be present, who, in every respect but one, I acknowledge to be greatly indeed my superiors;—that one is, a disinterested and impartial regard for the good of my native county, and the influence it will hold in the great national business that will come before you.

“ If the motions made for retrenchments in expence are to be the basis of your deliberations and petitions, I think them altogether unworthy;—all that could be obtained in these retrenchments, either by savings to the public treasury, or abridging the power of the crown, are beneath the notice of such an assembly, even were you sure of obtaining all you have in contemplation.—I am morally certain you will obtain nothing; and every unsuccessful contest disheartens the vanquished, and in proportion adds vigour to the conqueror.

“ Have we not seen this to be the case, in all the petitions and remonstrances that have
been

been presented? and is it not most certain that the majority will be doubly firm against you, as their interest is so much at stake?

“ I consider these motions as well intended, and they may be followed by others equally æconomical and wise; but they will all be rejected, and those who have stood forth in their support be discouraged.

“ There is one necessary point, which I think you ought in the first place to state most clearly—the general decay of the county—and keep close to your own; manufactures declining, commerce languishing, value of land decaying, all public improvements at a stand, bankruptcies numerous, taxes encreasing, multitudes distressed, and, was it not for the late favourable seasons, universal poverty and wretchedness must have taken place. Pray, therefore, that peace may be restored between us and America, as the only means of saving your county from every species of calamity;—the war with that country, and its consequences, having been the general causes of these distresses.—I do not mean that these expressions should be used; you will find much better: but if you do not lay the

axe to the root, in vain do you attempt the branches.

“ Let not a single reflection on the King or the ministry escape you—I mean not to appear in your petition. The acrimony that loaded the American petitions, and disgraced many of our own, have done unspeakable mischief; I beg therefore, and earnestly entreat, that every degree of invective may be shunned. Produce your facts, and state them in the clearest light; but if you mean well to your country, and wish to see an example followed in other counties, shun every thing offensive. As there is no great room for flattery, so neither give way to the reverse temper;—if you do, posterity may load your memories with deserved reproach.

“ Forgive me for thus offering my sentiments to men much better informed than myself; but it is my firm opinion, from the knowledge I have of the temper of those who must be the judges of your petitions, that so sure as you deviate from a line of language, temperate yet firm, so sure will you shut a door more closely against all that you can urge;—and what must be the consequence?

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sequence? A perseverance in the same measures, to do despite to those who condemned them. Once more, therefore, let me entreat that every thing manifestly offensive in language may be studiously avoided; that no bagatelles may be asked for, but the removal of the great cause of expence—the war with America: the lesser arrangements of œconomy may then be solicited, and these only take place at the decease of the present occupants.

“ Once more excuse me, if I am taking a liberty unbecoming me;—the honour of our county, the good of the country in general, are at stake. If you ask for what is evidently great and right, your example will be followed by all; if you ask for things which you know beforehand will be refused, let your numbers be ever so great, you may possibly meet with many counter-petitions, and an attempt for general reformation be stifled in its infancy.

“ J. FOTHERGILL.”

London, 8th of the 10th mo. 1779.

With a natural attachment to his native country, strengthened by every tie of inte-

rest and connection, and confirmed by his writings and patriotic exertions, yet, in the philanthropy of his breast, his affections expanded beyond the confines of empire. The Christian Patriot, whilst he directs his views to one universal Parent, and contemplates his unlimited goodness, feels his regard extended to all his creatures; and in the individual enjoyment of blessings, he delights in their universality and reciprocity.—Man was formed to be happy; and would be so, were the policy of nations directed to the communication of mutual benefits. In a small community it is ever found, that the happiness of individuals will be in proportion to the sum of happiness of the whole; and national felicity will be proportioned by a similar scale. No man has the power of encreasing his own happiness, beyond the necessary and common enjoyments of life, by any other medium, than by that of benefiting his fellow creatures; and the true policy of an individual might become the true policy of nations, were national policy subservient to reason and religion.

In this view, no language can be more impolitic and irrational, than that which
inculcates

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inculcates the existence of the *natural* enmity of nations. We know that the wolf, impelled by hunger, becomes the *natural* enemy of weaker animals ; but man, whose passions ought to be humanized in the school of Him who invariably recommended *Peace on earth*, can never become the *natural* foe of man. The different habits of nations, and the variety in their productions, naturally point him out as the friend of his own species ; and were religion of no avail, interest, one might imagine, would urge him to the communication of mutual benefits.

If we select an example, where habit has rendered the language of *natural enemy* familiar to national prejudice, even France might be united to us by interest and friendship, were we to encourage a mutual intercourse in trade, instead of interdicting it by the severest restraints. Whilst she takes off our Woollens, our Hard-ware, and other heavy articles of manufacture, we might receive in exchange her Laces, her Wines, and other articles, which the gaiety of the people, or the constitution of the soil, seem better adapted to produce. Mutual interest
being

being thus created by nature, and established by the communication of mutual advantages, we should become *natural friends*; at least, that enmity, to which so many thousands have been sacrificed, would no longer exist.—Thus I have heard Dr. FOTHERGILL reason; and may his spirit descend upon the rulers of the earth!

The manufacture of our fine Laces, which is carried on with such sedulous industry in some parts of England, and particularly in Buckinghamshire, supports indeed many poor families; but the employment, instead of being ultimately beneficial, may really prove injurious, neither suiting the constitution of this country, nor the genius of the people: those engaged in it, as well as in the manufactory of gauzes, &c. as I am informed, already appear like another race of people; that vigour and strength which distinguish'd the labouring poor of this kingdom from those of every other, is sunk down into pallid debility. It is true, that women and children are chiefly occupied in these sedentary employments; but it is from these enervated females that the next generation is to spring!

Even

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Even in the contracted spirit of national policy, if we have any rivals or *natural enemies*, it cannot be true policy in us to rob them of those employments that debilitate the labourer, and consequently his offspring; but rather to encourage among them such sedentary manufactories, whilst in return they exchange our wrought iron, and other products of athletic industry, which at the same time conduce to preserve that health and vigour, upon which personal happiness and national strength so much depend.

When a man hath distinguished himself by extraordinary efforts of genius, and gained the summit of popular fame, we naturally wish to be acquainted, not only with the most interesting circumstances of his life and character, but even those which may be trifling in themselves, and which by no means would bear to be recorded, did they refer to persons of little fame; yet, when connected with a character that hath excited our admiration, or with works that we have contemplated with delight, they derive a kind of adventitious consequence from their relation, and are sought after with more
m avidity

avidity than greater matters of lesser men*. This sentiment, doubtless, induced the writer † of “An Affectionate Tribute” to give the subsequent relation of Dr. FOTHERGILL’s dress, address, and manner of living; which I shall literally transcribe, for the information of such as never enjoyed his acquaintance.

“The person of Dr. FOTHERGILL was of a delicate, rather of an extenuated make; his features were all character; his eye had a peculiar brilliancy of expression, yet it was not easy so to mark the leading trait, as to disengage it from the united whole. He was remarkably active and alert, and, with a few exceptions, enjoyed a general good state of health.—He had a peculiarity of address and manner, resulting from person, education, and principle; but it was so perfectly accompanied by the most engaging attentions, that he was the genuine polite man, above all forms of breeding.—I knew him well, and never knew a man who left such pleasing impressions on the minds of his patients.

* Monthly Review, vol. lxx. p. 443.

† The late Dr. William Hird.

“ His dress was remarkably neat, plain; and decent, peculiarly becoming himself; a perfect transcript of the order, and I may add, the neatness of his mind.—He thought it unworthy a man of sense, and inconsistent with his character, to suffer himself to be led by the whim of fashion, and become the slave of its caprices.—But this impression upon his understanding was much strengthened by his firm attachment to his principles as a Quaker, which lead to that decent plainness and modesty in dress, which may be presumed to be one, at least, amongst the external evidences of a spirit elevated in its views above all transient and sublunary things.

“ At his meals he was remarkably temperate; in the opinion of some, rather too abstemious, eating sparingly, but with a good relish, and rarely exceeding two glasses of wine at dinner or supper: yet, by this uniform and steady temperance, he preserved his mind vigorous and active, and his constitution equal to all his engagements*.”

Religion, when it works upon the heart, and subjects the passions to the exercise of beneficence, generates all those attractive

* Page 27, 28.

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graces, which can be acquired by no other medium. Rules of exterior imitation may be delineated with the elegant pencil of a Chesterfield; but the purity of the heart is the genuine source of true politeness: for that religion, which breathes *good-will unto man*, whilst it refines the understanding, and softens the affections, begets that complacency from which necessarily result those amities, and that unaffected politeness, which alone should form the gentleman; such as the Scholar should cultivate, and the Christian recommend; and these rendered a FOTHERGILL beloved, respected, and illustrious.

But the time was approaching, when neither temperance nor virtue could exempt our valuable associate from the final lot of humanity. For a series of years, indeed for the most part of his life, he had enjoyed good health, and time seemed slowly to diminish the vigour of his body, or weaken the exertion of his mind; but it was perceptible to those who were much with him, and what he often remarked himself, that fatigue became less supportable, and recruit of strength, in his annual retreats into Cheshire, was of late years
more

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more slowly acquired. There are many causes, besides those resulting from advancing age, which diminish the constitutional vigour and vivacity of a feeling mind; his was sensibly awake to all the endearments of brotherly affinity: he had lost his youngest brother Joseph, and afterwards his brother Samuel, both of Warrington; the latter my paternal Guardian, by whom I was early introduced to the protection of the physician: it was these relatives, and others in the vicinity, that first induced him to retreat to Lea-hall in Cheshire, which is but a few miles distant from Warrington. These successive losses sensibly affected his mind, and retarded that constitutional benefit, which he had formerly experienced. From this time many of his letters from the country testify the depth of his grief, and the irreparable chasm of enjoyment which he had thereby sustained:

Quis desiderio sit pudor, aut modus

Tam chari capitis! — HOR.

In 1772, some months after the decease of his brother Samuel, “ I have been
m 3 “ obliged,”

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“ obliged,” he remarks from Lea-hall,
“ to write many letters, which I am at
“ present very unfit for, or any thing else :
“ but I will not spend all in unavailing
“ complaints. I meet with many things
“ to put me in mind how much I have lost ;
“ and I feel such a void in my enjoyments
“ of this life, as reduces my wishes to a
“ great mediocrity indeed *.”

In a succeeding year he acquaints me,
“ that he came down to Lea-hall much
“ oppressed : and now I am here,” he adds,
“ I have enough to do to command my-
“ self, when I recollect my brother, whose
“ countenance, counsel, and sympathy re-
“ lieved every anxiety, gave taste to every
“ enjoyment ; but I will try to banish
“ every thing, but a wish to follow him
“ through the remains of this life, with
“ submission to every difficulty, and grati-
“ tude for many many blessings †.”

I have the rather indulged these digres-
sions, as they recal to mind the virtues of my
deceased guardian, the want of whose coun-

* Letter to the Editor, anno 1772.

† Ibid. anno 1774.

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fel, if Dr. FOTHERGILL, with a comprehensive understanding rarely to be equalled, could so deeply lament, what must the public have sustained when this god-like man was no more ! for, if this sacred appellation may be applied to him who devotes his life to render mankind wiser and happier, I have ample sanction for adopting it on the present occasion ; and more particularly as he was so nearly connected with the immediate subject of my narration * :
but

* This pious man, a little before his death, addressed the following expressions to some of his relations, when they took leave of him, previous to their setting out for the Yearly Meeting in London, anno 1772.

“ Our health is no more at our command, than
“ length of days ;—mine seems drawing fast towards a
“ conclusion, I think : but I am content with every
“ allotment of Providence, for they are all in wisdom—unerring wisdom. There is *One Thing* which,
“ as an arm underneath, bears up and supports ; and
“ though the rolling tempestuous billows surround, yet
“ my head is kept above them, and my feet are firmly
“ established.—Oh ! seek it—press after it—lay fast
“ hold of it.

“ Though painful my nights and wearisome my
“ days, yet I am preserved in patience and resignation.—Death has no terrors, nor will the grave have

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but the progress of solicitude upon the mind, which is not the result of remorse, is always slow, and rarely fatal; and the disease under which Dr. FOTHERGILL finally

“ any victory.—My soul triumphs over death, hell,
“ and the grave.

“ Husbands and wives, parents and children, health
“ and riches, must all go;—disappointment is another
“ name for them.

“ I should have been thankful, had I been able to
“ have got to the ensuing Yearly Meeting in London,
“ which you are now going to attend, where I have
“ been so often refreshed with my brethren; but it is
“ otherwise allotted.—The Lord knows best what is best
“ for us;—I am content, and resigned to his will.

“ I feel a foretaste of the joy which is to come; and
“ who would wish to change such a state of mind?—
“ I should be glad if an easy channel could be found,
“ to inform the Yearly Meeting, that as I have lived,
“ so I shall close, with the most unshaken assurance,
“ that we have not followed cunningly-devised fables,
“ but the pure, living, eternal substance.

“ Let the aged be strong, let the middle-aged be
“ animated, and the youth encouraged; for the Lord
“ is with Sion, the Lord will bless Sion!

“ If I be now removed out of his church militant,
“ where I have endeavoured in some measure to fill up
“ my duty, I have an *evidence* that I shall gain an ad-
“ mittance into his glorious church triumphant, far
“ above the heavens.

“ My dear love to all them that love the Lord
“ Jesus.”

suffered,

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suffered, was certainly independent of this source. It was about the middle of November 1778, that, on waking out of a short sleep, a forcible inclination to make water ensued, but without the power. For a day or two preceding, some heat, and an unusual difficulty had attended : at length a total suppression came on, that required manual assistance for upwards of two weeks, which was sometimes accompanied with excruciating pain, though no less than two hundred drops of Thebaic tincture had been given in the space of a few hours, without much relief. In the height of his distress I visited him, and found him calm and recollected : he described, with wonderful serenity of mind, his acute misery, expressing a pious and Christian resignation ; and adding, “ that if he had left any thing undone which he wished to have done, it “ was perfecting the plan of Ackworth “ School ; and likewise, the complete arrangement of the rules of our religious “ Society.” The first, I have already intimated, was an undertaking worthy of a great and illustrious sage ; and the latter was equally arduous, though the difficulty could

could be known only to the Society interested in it : and he lived to accomplish his ardent wishes.

In the commencement of December of the same year, he was able to see his friends ; and soon afterwards the importunities of the sick forced him again into his former arduous and active life, and for the space of two years he enjoyed his usual degree of health, at least he rarely complained, and he certainly was equally occupied in the duties of his profession, and in numerous exertions for the benefit of individuals, and of the community ; for he never seemed so happy, as when he was rendering others so.

It was after this illness that he visited Ackworth School, and endeavoured to perfect his plan, and perpetuate its advantages to posterity. He retired as usual, the latter end of the year, to Lea-hall, and once returned by Buxton, where he projected those improvements in that celebrated resort of invalids, already hinted at, and which, as I am informed, are now carrying into execution.

He likewise visited Knaresborough, in Yorkshire, after many years absence, “ to
“ pay,”

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“ pay,” as he, with filial piety, relates,
“ the grateful tribute of a tear at the side
“ of an honoured parent’s grave.—To see
“ that his sepulchre was not laid waste to
“ the beasts of the field, but secured from
“ the ravages of neglect, was to us (himself
“ and sister) a pleasing duty. Firmly per-
“ suaded that we had not the least cause to
“ mourn on his account, and nothing left
“ more becoming us, than to call to mind
“ his precepts, and his example, we left the
“ solitary spot, with hearts full of reverent
“ thankfulness, that such was our father,
“ and that we were so far favoured, as to be
“ able to remember him with gratitude and
“ affection *.”

But the firmest constitution, like the most perfect elastic, may be extended beyond the power of restoration. It was on the 12th day of December 1780 that he was again seized with a suppression of urine, which no art could remove. I saw him in a state of acute pain, which seemed almost insupportable; he had strength enough to raise himself up in bed, but with such extreme thirst, that while he leaned on his right arm, he held in the left hand a glass

* Letter to the Editor.

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of wine and water, to moderate the insatiable thirst, of which fluid he was obliged to sip after every sentence, in order to enable him to speak : he was then as serene as in perfect health ; he endeavoured, indeed, to assume a degree of cheerfulness, which was natural to him when well, and described his complaints, and their probable fatal termination, with a pious hope, “ that he had
“ not lived in vain, but in degree to answer the end of his creation, by sacrificing interested considerations, and his
“ own ease, to the good of his fellow creatures.” Some individuals might have envied the universal esteem he acquired by his virtues, his manners, and his skill in healing ; and all may envy that comfort of mind which sustained him to his final dissolution, which was on the 26th day of December 1780.

A man so long, and so respectfully known, dying in the summit of celebrity, and surrounded with the caresses of a numerous acquaintance, must be deeply and universally regretted.

Acts of friendship to the deceased are animated, because they are disinterested, and virtuous minds are the most ardently disposed

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posed to fulfil them : but to prevent the inconveniencies that were feared, and might result, from the crowd that purposed to assemble, to pay the last offices of esteem to his memory, had he been interred in London, it was judged adviseable to carry his remains into the country ; which, on the 5th of January 1781, were deposited in the burial-ground of Winchmore-hill, about twelve miles from town : nevertheless, upwards of seventy coaches and chaises, filled with friends, attended upon this melancholy occasion. “ The tender remembrance of friendship yet lives in every breast ; we mourn without form ; we see and feel the void his fall has left, and which only time can mitigate, and a resignation to the dispensations of that Power, which orders all things with unerring wisdom and goodness, beyond our comprehension *.”

———*Quis talia fando,*
Temperet à lachrymis ?—— VIRG.

* Dr. FOTHERGILL's Life of Dr. Russell.

THE

THE following letter, though addressed to the sister of Dr. FOTHERGILL, has such an immediate reference to the present subject of biography, that I have presumed to insert it here.—This affectionate tribute of the living physician, after an intimacy commencing in youth, and continued with unabated friendship to the latest period of Dr. FOTHERGILL'S life, affords the most honourable testimony of the amiable character of the one, and of the tender and sympathetic feelings of the other; and must convey singular pleasure to every reader, who hath enjoyed that genuine friendship, which we trust doth not terminate with the grave.

“ Dear Mrs. FOTHERGILL,

“ I DO not fear to encrease your grief by this early address, nor to recall to your memory the very afflicting dispensation which you have lately experienced, as I am well convinced it has never once been absent

sent

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sent from your mind since it happened ; but I can no longer defer to mingle my tears with yours, and most sincerely to condole with you on the signal loss which you have sustained. Your loss, it must be confessed, is incomparably the greatest ; but you are by no means the only sufferer—all his friends, his acquaintances, the publick—all partake of it, and share it with you.

“ As to myself, I feel it deeply. Forty-seven years have now run their course since I had first the happiness of his acquaintance ; during which long tract of time we have maintained an uninterrupted warm mutual and disinterested friendship. Often have I been benefited by his counsel and advice ; always happy and improved by his conversation and correspondence. The regard and kindness with which he distinguished me, has been ever my pleasure and my boast. May the Almighty sanctify this severe affliction to you ! and may we all profit by so eminent an example ! Great as your grief must be, you have every consolation that can alleviate a misfortune of this kind. No one lived a more innocent and a more useful life. No one was ever more
beloved

beloved and respected while living; none have died more universally regretted. I loved and esteemed him highly alive; I shall ever respect his memory. Submission to the will of Heaven, we all know, is ever our duty under every afflicting dispensation. The reason is very plain; of this our judgment is easily convinced: but the practice is not quite so easy. We cannot forget the pleasure we enjoyed in the possession of such blessings; we look back with regret, and are deeply sensible of the present void. Natural affection will have its course, and it requires time to soothe the passions. Of all the taxes on humanity, this is the greatest.—Both on your own account, and from the near relation in which you stand to the respected deceased, I must ever interest myself cordially in your welfare. I am far from expecting, nay, I do not even wish, you to take any notice of this letter soon. The present state of your mind cannot admit of it: but hereafter, when time has mellowed your grief, and blunted the edge of your present poignant affliction, I will hope to hear, either from yourself, or by the hands of some of your friends, of your
state

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state of health and situation. I hope I need not say, that if in any respect I can be made useful to you, it will afford me a sensible pleasure. I commit you to the consolation and guidance of the Almighty ; and remain, with sincere regard and esteem,

“ Dear Mrs. FOTHERGILL’s

“ Faithful and respectful friend,

“ W. CUMING.”

“ *Dorchester, Jan. 10, 1781.*”

*Lately published by Dr. LETTSOM; and sold by
C. DILLY, in the Poultry.*

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* Baron Dimisdale's Remarks, and Review, are printed for J. Phillips, in George Yard, Lombard Street.

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